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The Eunice News

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State keeping 6 seats in Congress

The Center Square
The U.S. Census Bureau unveiled updated population counts for all 50 states Monday, shifting the fate of Congress and the Electoral College for the next decade.

Louisiana's population increased by 2.7% from 2010 to 2020. The state will keep its six seats in Congress.

The census counted 4,657,757 people in Louisiana, an increase of 124,385 from the 2010 count.

Under the new population totals, 13 states will gain or lose a member of the U.S. House of Representatives while 37 states will remain the same.

Texas gained two seats while Florida, Colorado, Montana, North Carolina and Oregon gained one seat.

California, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia will lose one seat.

Notably, New York was just 89 residents away from keeping its lost House seat.

All four of the largest states saw a shift in seats with the high-tax states losing seats and the lower-tax states gaining seats, suggesting the tax rates could be affecting migration and population numbers in the country's most populous and politically influential states.

Both California and New York have notoriously high tax rates and lost seats, along with the high-tax state of Illinois.

Lower taxed states like Texas and Florida gained seats.

The new tallies bring the traditionally red state of Texas to 38 Congressional seats, just two shy of the typically blue state California, which dropped to 52. The typically Democratic state of New York also dropped down to 26 seats.

The official population of the U.S. came in at 331,449,281, a 7.4% increase from the 2010 Census. That growth is the second slowest in the country's history, according to the bureau's experts.

California, Texas, Florida and New York remain the most populous states with the most seats, having roughly a third of the seats in the House of Representatives.

Now, members of the House represent an average of roughly 761,000 Americans within their districts.

California remains the

(See Census, Page 11)



Jerome Robinson, at the lectern, speaks about athletic facility needs in St. Landry Parish public schools at a meeting Monday in Opelousas. Seated at right is Eunice High School Principal Mitch Fontenot. (Photo by Harlan Kirgan)

School Board planning tax vote for raises, athletic facility improvements

By Harlan Kirgan
Editor

Property taxes to pay for employee pay raises and athletic facility improvements were presented to the St. Landry Parish School Board's Finance Committee on Monday.

Three proposals were presented by Superintendent Patrick Jenkins. One is for a 9.9 mill tax to raise teacher pay by \$3,000 and support workers by \$2,000 a year. The tax is projected to raise about \$6,557,551 annually.

Secondly, a proposal is for a 1 mill tax to raise about \$662,379 a year to pay for

operations, maintenance and improvements to athletic facilities and playgrounds.

A third proposal is to combine the taxes into an 11-mill property tax with 10 mills for the pay raises and 1 mill for the athletic and playground improvements.

Tentative election dates are Nov. 13 or March 26, 2022.

The proposals are tentative and they will be revisited at the May 6 Board meeting.

Athletic facilities at the parish's six high schools were described by principals and coaches as having longstanding problems to the Board at Monday's meeting.

Jerome Robinson, supervisor of Health/P.E./Athletics, said, "We have six high schools with athletic participation of our students and of those six high schools with regard to looking into tracks, we really have one that can actually host a viable track meet using five out of six lanes."

None of the parish's tracks are adequate and most are unusable for competition. Gymnasiums have roof, seating and flooring problems.

For instance, Eunice High Principal Mitch Fontenot

(See Tax, Page 5)

Spending money turns into hard work for School Board

By Harlan Kirgan
Editor

A tax proposal and spending about \$30.3 million in COVID-19 relief money consumed most of a five and half hour meeting Monday of St. Landry Parish School Board committees.

The enormity of the relief money and the district's needs were evident as Board members pointed out classroom, restroom and cafeteria needs at schools.

The school district had faced a deadline on Friday to submit a budget for COVID relief funds, but that was extended to Monday.

The school district completed spending \$7.5 million of its first installment of ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funding with the bulk coming in two other phases. The second ESSER totals \$31,977,024 and the third ESSER is \$71,815,851.

The school district must submit a budget for 50% of ESSER II and 20% of ESSER III by Monday.

The \$30.3 million is about 37.5% of the total \$123.9 million in expenditures in the Board's 2021-2022 budget.

Learning loss during the pandemic was the focus of the Board's Academic Committee last week.

Superintendent Patrick Jenkins said at Monday's meeting the district will request about \$2.5 million to pay for a onetime \$1,000 stipend to employees for their work during the pandemic.

While the Board authorized Jenkins to make decisions about the relief money, it also pushed for a special meeting on Wednesday to review and presumably approve the district's budget. The special meeting was set and then



St. Landry Parish School Board member Mary Ellen Donatto is shown at Monday's meeting. (Photo by Harlan Kirgan)

canceled on Tuesday.

Jenkins said the ESSER II funds also may be used for facilities and infrastructure if there is a reason related to COVID-19.

In the Board's Buildings, Lands and Sites Committee meeting the cost of facility improvements vaporized the relief fund budget.

Greg Ortego, of Star Services, said an ionization system to kill viruses in the air would cost a minimum of \$3 million. Improving air quality in the district's facilities is an allowable expense, according to Claudia Blanchard,

(See Relief, Page 11)

Statewide mask mandated lifted

BATON ROUGE — Following months of sustained improvement in COVID hospitalizations and an increase in the supply and availability of vaccines, Gov. John Bel Edwards announced that some mitigation measures will be eased and the statewide mask mandate was lifted Wednesday.

Mask policies in Louisiana will be set by local leaders and business owners. Under the governor's new public health order, masks will still be required on public transit and in state government buildings, K-12 schools, early childhood education centers, colleges and universities, and healthcare facilities.

More than one in four Louisianians are now fully vaccinated, including two-thirds of those 65 and older. The state of Louisiana joins the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal and medical officials in recommending that people wear masks in public or when they are with unvaccinated people outside of their households.

All Louisianians 16 and older have been eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine for more than a month and Louisiana was one of the first states to broaden vaccine eligibility to the full population. The three safe and effective COVID vaccines are widely available in Louisiana.

"Many Louisianians have been wearing masks for more than a year now and the statewide mask mandate has been in place for nearly 10 months. We know masks work — the science is clear

(See Mask, Page 5)

St. Landry Parish included in \$30M child care program

BATON ROUGE — The St. Landry Parish School Board is among parishes sharing in \$30 million of funding from the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to pay for 2,970 seats in child care for children up to 3 years old for the 2021-2022 school year.

Along with sustaining the 660 B-3 seats allocated last year, the move to kickstart LA B to 3 with federal funding includes the creation of 2,310 new B-3 seats. These seats are awarded to 22 Louisiana communities, all of which are Ready Start Networks. These networks are local community pilots tasked with improving access to quality early childhood care and education.

"I applaud our BESE members for this critical investment in our children and our state," said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Cade Brumley. "These funds will remove the financial barrier that exists for thousands of Louisiana families and allow them to provide their children with high-quality early childhood care and education."

The funding allows eligible families to receive tuition-free seats if they are at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and working or attending school or actively seeking employment.

(See BESE, Page 5)



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Head-on crash on I-10 in Acadia Parish claims 2 lives

Shortly after 6 p.m. April 23, Louisiana State Police Troop 1 was notified of a two-vehicle crash on Interstate 10 near mile marker 67 (east of Jennings) in Acadia Parish. The crash claimed the life of a driver and his passenger.

The deceased have been identified as 79-year-old Hoa Minh Le of Henderson and 72-year-old Huynh Thi Tran of Amelia.

The preliminary investigation by State Police revealed a Ram pickup, being driven by 45-year-old Luis Martinez Pedro of Miami, Florida, was traveling west on I-10 when the vehicle experienced a tire malfunction. The Ram entered the median and continued to travel west-

bound, partially into the eastbound lane. At the same time, a Nissan Frontier, being driven by Le was traveling east on I-10. Both drivers took evasive action to avoid the collision and veered into the median. Upon doing so, the Ram collided head-on into the Nissan.

Despite being properly restrained, both Le and Tran suffered fatal injuries and were pronounced deceased at the scene by the Acadia Parish Coroner's Office. Pedro was properly restrained; he was transported to a local hospital with moderate injuries. Routine toxicology samples were obtained from both drivers for analysis. This crash remains under investigation.

Governor names parish residents to agricultural board

BATON ROUGE — Gov. John Bel Edwards announced appointments to the Louisiana Soybean and Grain Research and Promotion Board.

The Louisiana Soybean and Grain Research and Promotion Board was created to promote the growth and development of the soybean, wheat, corn, and grain sorghum industries in Louisiana. Assessments collected on these grains at the first point of sale by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry are remitted to the Board to conduct programs of research and promotion. The Board also participates in federal check off programs for soybeans and grain sorghum.

Among those named are:

Joseph M. Boudreaux of Port Barre has been appointed to the Louisiana Soybean and Grain Research and Promotion Board. Boudreaux is a farmer and was nominated by the Louisiana Farm Bureau Foundation.

Charles J. Cannatella of Melville has been reappointed to the Louisiana Soybean and Grain Research and Promotion Board. Cannatella is the owner of Cannatella Outdoor Farms and was nominated by the Louisiana Cotton and Grain Association.

Joey J. Olivier of Arnaudville has been appointed to the Louisiana Soybean and Grain Research and Promotion Board. Olivier is a farmer and was nominated by the Louisiana Farm Bureau.

UL Lafayette Alumni Association Celebration online auction starts Monday

LAFAYETTE — A getaway to the beach, art and jewelry are among more than a hundred items that will be up for grabs during the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Alumni Association's virtual silent auction.

Online bidding for the Alumni Association Celebration auction will begin at 10 a.m. on Monday and will end at 10 a.m. on May 12.

Items up for bid will also include enticements for food lovers. One is a dinner for six people at Café Sydnie Mae prepared by Chef Kim Nuzum. Dr. Bryan Maggard, the University's director of Athletics, and wife Kerry, will join the group.

Other items to be sold to the highest bidder include:

- a weeklong stay in a beachfront condominium in Orange Beach, Fla.;
- a weekend getaway to Austin, Texas;
- over \$500 in gift certificates to "Eat Around Acadiana" at local restaurants; and
- a two-hour dolphin tour from Ho2 Pensacola Dolphin Tours, Pon-

toons and More in Gulf Breeze, Fla.

The Alumni Association typically holds live and silent auctions during its Spring Gala, an annual in-person event. Proceeds from the gala are dedicated to Alumni Association initiatives and maintaining and improving its facilities.

This year, the auction will be held as part of an Alumni Association Celebration, said John Claude Arceneaux, interim executive director of the Alumni Association.

"State-mandated bans on gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic — and uncertainty about when those bans would end — prevented the gala from being held this year," Arceneaux said.

As part of the celebration, photos of past Alumni Association events and video interviews of alums will be posted to its social media accounts each day during the auction.

"We'll highlight Alumni Association history and traditions, and feature some of the people who have helped shape it," Arceneaux said.

Invasive snail species could threaten crawfish production

By V. Todd Miller
vtmiller@agcenter.lsu.edu

BATON ROUGE — Calling them the densest he's ever seen, LSU AgCenter entomologist Blake Wilson was startled to find invasive apple snail egg masses in St. James Parish, but said preventative measures, and a little help from Mother Nature, can mitigate the spread and potential damage to the crawfish industry.

Wilson, who specializes in agriculture pest management research, had previously encountered high concentrations of apple snails, or *Pomacea maculata*, in Calcasieu, Vermilion and Lafayette parishes, with smaller concentrations in Cameron and Jefferson Davis.

Last week he received a call from a concerned crawfish farmer from St. James, who discovered the unmistakable bright, pink eggs. Wilson believes severe weather and flooding over the last year could have contributed to the spread.

"It's likely they may have shown up on new farms following the hurricanes last year," Wilson said. "Any type of flooding can create an easy way for them to get into isolated ponds."

Currently, Wilson estimates that fewer than 3,000 of Louisiana's estimated 200,000 acres of crawfish farms have been impacted, but those farms have been hit hard. According to Wilson, each apple snail egg mass can contain hundreds of eggs, with a female producing them every week to ten days in the summer months.

"They're catching half the normal crawfish due to mature snails both clogging trap entrances and consuming the bait," Wilson said. "In some fields, there has been more than a 50% reduction in the overall crawfish catch."

Introduced to the Louisiana ecosystem around 2016, apple snails were sold in pet stores for aquariums as "Mystery Snails," "Island Snails," and "Giant Apple Snails." The first sighting in the wild in Louisiana was in a swamp near Schriever, about 12 miles north of Houma, in Terrebonne Parish. Whether careless or intentional, a pet owner was the likely cause.

Jacoby Carter, a wildlife ecologist at the U.S. Geological Survey Wetland and Aquatic Research Center in Lafayette, said in addition to crawfish ponds, apple snails present a problem in natural systems. They eat native, submerged, aquatic vegetation, eliminating food and habitat for ducks and other species, while also helping invasive aquatic plant species by removing the competition.

Carter said although young snails have a multitude of predators, humans should remain cautious when



Apple snail egg masses grow on a crawfish boat in St. James Parish. To prevent spreading, AgCenter entomologist Blake Wilson recommends thoroughly cleaning equipment before moving it from infested to non-infested ponds. (Photo by Blake Wilson/LSU AgCenter)

encountering the eggs, and definitely should not eat the adults.

"The snail hatchlings are a millimeter wide at most, so they are food sources for fish, turtles and have even been found in the stomachs of frogs," Carter said. "But, in the egg stage, they emit toxins that can irritate human skin, and the adults carry lung worm, which can make people sick."

Wilson said because many farmers dump crawfish in the late spring to stock their ponds for the next cycle, this is a crucial time to make sure not to inadvertently introduce snails to the ponds during that process.

"A main point I'd like to emphasize is not to move boats and equipment from infested bodies of water to those that are not infested," Wilson said. "Anything near the surface of the water can get an egg mass on it and they can be introduced that way."

Carter said the easiest way to destroy apple snail egg masses in the early, bright-pink stage is to, while wearing gloves, carefully scrape them into the water where they will be unable to survive and hatch. Once the hatchlings start to develop shells and become white, it's best to crush them.

"At that point, you're just helping them along with the maturing process if you move them to the water," Carter said.

Wilson adds that mature apple snails are not particularly adept at moving across land without the aid of natural flooding occurrences. He encourages crawfish farmers to use well water for controlled flooding

of their ponds, which many do. He said so far this is the best method to prevent further spread.

"We're hoping to identify a management strategy that's compatible with crawfish," Wilson said. "Draining to low water can be effective in getting rid of the snails, but it's also detrimental to crawfish."

Carter adds that apple snails have the ability to burrow into the mud and wait out dry spells, with some surviving for more than six months doing so.

"One possible mitigation method is once crawfish ponds are drained to till them after they have dried out," Carter said.

Chemical control options could be a future solution, Wilson believes, but those come with their own caveats.

"One shows a little promise, but finding a chemical that's detrimental to snails, yet safe for crawfish is a challenge," Wilson said. "Plus, it could be a hard sell to consumers."

Wilson sites as his biggest concern apple snails continuing to spread into new farms and affecting the entire crawfish production industry. But he said that is a worst-case scenario that can be prevented.

"Eventually, we might be able to identify a solution, but it's not going to be a silver bullet," Wilson said. "The best method of prevention is for farmers to remain aware, use controlled flooding with well water when possible and to clean their equipment thoroughly before transferring it from pond to pond."

Blake Wilson can be reached at bwilson@agcenter.lsu.edu



Snail egg masses grow a few inches above the water. A good way to prevent eggs from hatching is to submerge them in water. (Photo by Blake Wilson/LSU AgCenter)

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Eunice Police radio logs

The following are excerpts from the Eunice Police Department radio dispatch logs.

April 23

05:07 Report of a subject drowning in the 1300 block of West Peach.

08:17 Lobby complaint in reference to physical inspection.

08:59 Report of two large dogs in the 600 block of South 7th Street.

09:45 Disturbance reported in the 300 block of North East.

16:10 Report of juveniles messing with horses on Bacciochi near the rice dryer.

18:33 Bullying reported in the 500 block of College.

20:07 Shoplifting reported at Walmart.

22:01 Caller in the 400 block of North Beulah requested removal of a subject from the property.

23:23 Worker from hospital ER requested a subject to be removed.

April 24

02:55 Caller in the 400 block of North CC Duson advised that his daughter, which was intoxicated, did not want to get out of vehicle and go inside.

06:59 Report of a suspicious vehicle at Basile State Bank.

07:24 Subject on a bike sitting on railroad tracks near Samuel Drive.

07:57 Caller reported shots fired on Maple near the projects.

09:04 Appeared to be coming from the shooting range.

09:32 Wreck reported at Circle K. No road blockage or injuries.

09:58 Vandalism reported at Tropical Car Wash.

11:08 Fight reported in the 100 block of North 9th Street.

13:44 Caller requested an officer in the 200 block of South Mallet.

14:11 Disturbance reported at Walmart.

14:59 Wreck reported at parking lot at Walmart.

15:22 Suspicious subject at Dresser Building.

15:24 Owner confirmed that they are workers.

15:47 Hit and run reported behind the area of the Post Office.

17:29 Stalled vehicle in front of Southern Diesel Concepts.

17:38 Report of a reckless driver heading into Eunice from east, Opelousas.

17:41 Report of a vehicle near Golden Seafood, and subject pulling out an illegal weapon on different people.

18:51 Report of a reckless driver in the 300 block of Perrotti.

19:37 Possible disturbance in the 700 block of

West Vine.

22:05 Suspicious vehicle reported at Northwest Pavilion.

22:34 Possible disturbance in the 700 block of North Vivian.

22:46 Possible disturbance reported in the 400 block of Mayers.

April 25

00:44 Worker from McDonald's reported a subject harassing employees.

02:23 Disturbance reported in the 700 block of North 2nd Street.

02:54 Suspicious subjects reported at the Northwest Pavilion.

12:54 Worker from Best Western reported a stolen ironing board.

15:01 Caller in the 100 block of East Oak requested to speak to an officer in reference to a family member.

15:36 Report of a begging subject in the area of Pop's Liquor.

16:30 Report of loud music in the 100 block of Goose.

16:34 Report of a pair of pants with paraphernalia in the 600 block of West Vine.

17:02 Caller in the 2000 block of Betty reported a subject taking mail.

17:06 Loud music reported in the area of Rose.

18:00 Report of a baby alligator in a swimming pool in the 400 block of West Vine.

18:44 Juveniles fighting in the area of Acadia and Boudreaux.

19:01 Loud music reported in the Sunrise Apartments.

20:20 Loud music reported in the area of Childs.

20:38 Caller from Bengal Car Wash advised that homeless subjects are leaving trash on the property.

21:19 Suspicious subjects and vehicles reported at City Lake.

21:38 Caller in the 1900 block of West Oak advised that his neighbor shattered windows mowing grass.

22:22 Gun shots heard coming from the back of Sunrise Apartments.

23:04 Dispute between family members reported at RedWood Apartments.

23:10 Requested removal of a subject in the 500 block of Bernice.

23:37 Caller reported shots fired in the area of Tate.

April 26

02:21 Disturbance reported in the 200 block of Jennifer.

04:42 Caller in the 700 block of Carron advised that someone is trying to break into his vehicle.

05:52 Caller in the 300

block of East Peach advised of a subject that is walking around the home.

07:45 Caller in the 1200 block of B&B Avenue advised of a shattered back glass on a vehicle.

08:08 Foot pursuit of a subject near the 600 block of College.

08:56 Hit and run reported at Tobacco Plus.

09:29 Report of a parked vehicle at Races and Aces. Has been parked for several days.

10:24 Caller in the 900 block of College advised of a suspicious subject.

11:36 Hit and run reported in the area of South Cane.

13:10 Subject in the 1300 block of Faris requested an officer. He needs to collect his items.

14:15 Subject in the 100 block of Veterans advised that drugs were found.

14:20 Report of a stolen money order at Walmart.

14:26 Lobby complaint in reference to scammers.

14:32 Report of a neighbor harassing a subject. Call came from the 400 block of North Mallet.

15:14 Wreck reported in the 300 block of Martin Luther King Drive in a parking lot. No injuries.

15:47 Report of a stolen catalytic converter on a delivery truck at Naquins'.

15:50 Report of a stolen car in the 2000 block of Park.

15:50 Caller in the 400 block of Mayers advised that her vehicle was broken into and a wallet was stolen.

16:09 Disturbance reported in the area of Circle Park.

16:26 Hit and run reported near the Sonic.

17:16 Report of an ATV on the roadway.

18:23 Suspicious electric cart and driver in the area of the parking lot of AT&T.

19:47 Disturbance reported in the area of Naquin's Furniture.

20:43 Advised of an assault that happened in the area of North East.

21:00 Subject advised that she had an altercation but refused medical attention.

22:43 Caller in the Zone 4 either heard a firework or a gun shot fired.

22:48 Caller in the 200 block of West Gum advised of neighbors arguing or yelling at each other.

23:29 Caller in the 600 block of North 4th Street advised that her mother was threatening to hit a tree and kill her.

April 27

03:11 Caller in the 600 block of College advised of a subject that is going into people's yard.

Bill restricting no-knock warrants, chokeholds advances in Senate

By Ryan Nelsen
LSU Manship School
News Service

BATON ROUGE – A bill that would restrict law enforcement officials from using no-knock warrants and chokeholds advanced Tuesday.

Sen. Cleo Fields, D-Baton Rouge, moved his bill, SB34, through the Senate Judiciary B Committee, and it will next go to the Senate floor. The bill restricts law enforcement officers from conducting no-knock warrants at night and from using chokeholds, and it calls for more cameras to increase accountability.

Sen. Gregory Tarver, D-Shreveport said, however, that he would debate the restriction on no-knock warrant on the Senate floor as "most bad things happen at night."

"I think we need to have a very serious discussion about this," Talbot said. "When a judge assigns it, they ought to be able to do this thing at night or day."



Cleo Fields

As long as it's legal and they follow the rules and regs."

Rebekah Taylor, program manager at the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, sat with Fields as he introduced his bill and said it gave the courts clarity on how these warrants are being served.

"The officers are not announcing themselves as they entering a residence based on a warrant that's been signed by a judge," said Talbot. "This legislation would prohibit those types of warrants from being executed, except when probable cause has been shown."

Lt. Robert Burns of the Louisiana State Police said the practice of serving no-knock warrants has "greatly diminished" over the years.

"We do a lot more of what's called a surround-and-call-out where we protect all entrances and exits of a property, and we use as many tactics as we can to try to gain communication with occupants of the property," said Burns.

Ending no-knock warrants has been part of the Black Lives Matter agenda. The organization

cities that Breonna Taylor was shot and killed in March 2020 by Louisville police officers while serving a no-knock warrant at night.

The Baton Rouge Police Department has banned chokeholds since 2017. But a video was posted to social media websites as a BRPD officer used a chokehold while detaining a 13-year-old child in February. Activists have called for the body camera footage to be released, but it has not been made public due to the child's age.

Fields' bill would restrict neck holds statewide, except when for when an officer reasonably believes that they are in a risk of great bodily harm.

The bill provides funding for more law-enforcement body cameras and for dash cams that start to record when the emergency lights are turned on from a vehicle.

The bill was a collaborative effort, as Fields worked with the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the Louisiana State Police, the Chief of Police Association, the Fraternal Order of Police and the Attorney General.

St. Landry Parish Sheriff's arrests

The following are arrests reported by the St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

April 21

Ronald Lee Moten, 47, 300 block of Richard Street, Sunset. Bench warrant. Arrested by Sunset Police.

Braylin Bershawn Lemon, 18, 100 block of North Romero, Carencro. Hold for Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Joseph Conrad Fontenot, 42, 3800 block of Highway 383, Kinder. Bench warrant. Arrested by other agency.

Justin Lincoln, 40,

Homeless, Hold for Bowie County (Texas) Sheriff's Office. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

April 22

James Charles Hall, 46, 1000 block of West Cherry Street, Opelousas. Penalty for distribution or possession with intent to distribute narcotic drugs listed in Schedule I, prohibited acts-Schedule II CDS, careless operation of a motor, open container. Arrested by Louisiana State Police.

Tiffany Lee, 29, 600 block of West Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Opelousas. Bench warrant. Arrested by other

agency.

Kenneth Orthel Tyler II, 43, 16000 block of Defco, Houston, Texas. Bench warrant. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

April 22

James Charles Hall, 46, 1000 block of West Cherry Street, Opelousas. Penalty for distribution or possession with intent to distribute narcotic drugs listed in Schedule I, prohibited acts-Schedule II CDS, careless operation of a motor, open container. Arrested by Louisiana State Police.

Tiffany Lee, 29, 600 block of West Martin

(See Arrests, Page 5)

Eunice Police arrests

The following are arrests by Eunice Police.

April 23
Rusty James Bordelon, 36, 100 block of Baine, Eunice. Bench warrant.

Andrea Nichole Guillory, 21, 1300 block of West Peach, Eunice. Theft.

Traven R. LeBlanc, 23,

800 block of Hwy. 1252, Carencro. Disturbing the peace.

Juvenile, 17, Eunice. Hit and run.

Kenneth Tyler, 43, 16000 block of Detric Lane, Houston, Texas. Money warrant.

April 27

Ronnie Lee Fontenot, 33, 1700 block of Providence Hwy., Rayne. Telephone communication, improper language, harassment.

Juvenile, 16, New Iberia. Criminal trespass, attempted theft of value less than \$1,000, 2 counts.

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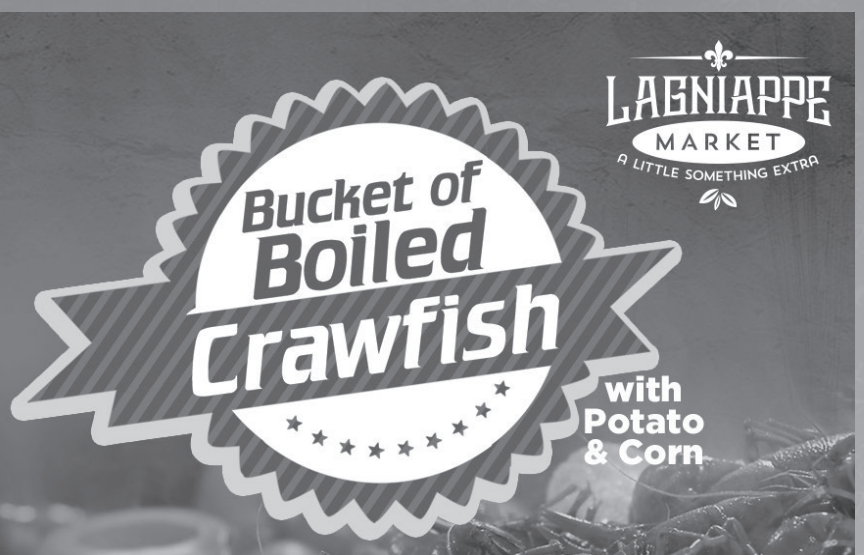


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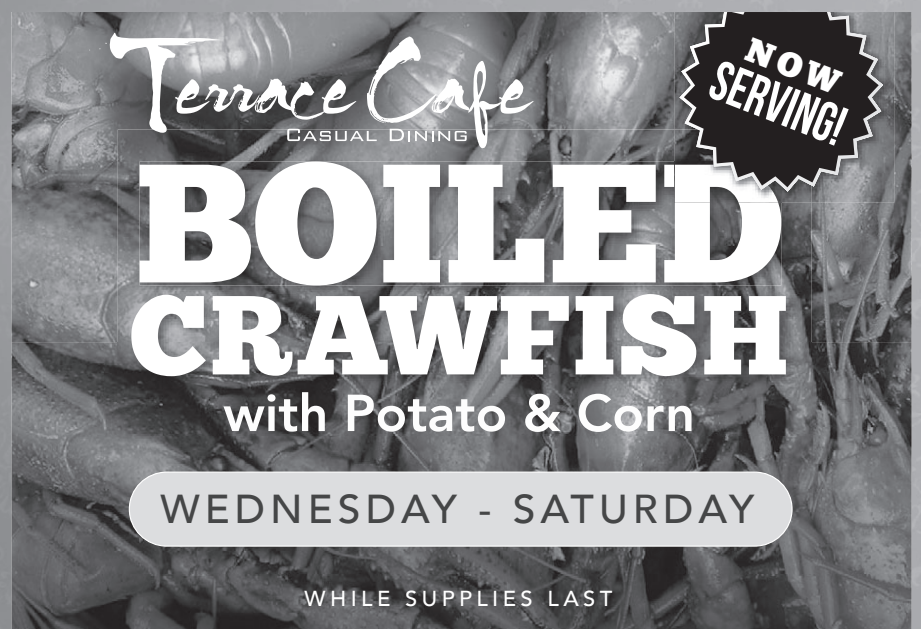
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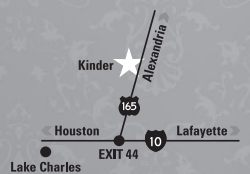
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A hunger for normalcy

My recent trip to Florida was glorious for one simple reason: it was normal.

You see, I had been hungering for a friendly social gathering for months — any gathering involving family, friends, business colleagues or old classmates would do.

I had been hungering for the simple ability to freely assemble with my fellow humans, as I did routinely before COVID struck.

My family is still smarting over the loss of our Thanksgiving feast. For the first time in six decades, my parents' house wasn't packed full of 30 to 40 people.

My holiday dinner last fall involved me showing up with Thanksgiving takeout for four.

We did count our many blessings. We were all healthy and well. But it was surreal to be in such an empty house eating processed turkey and stuffing.

This spring, as the COVID vaccines are being rolled out, our family gatherings began to approach normalcy.

My mother and father were able to host a modest Easter event attended mainly by family members who had got their COVID shots.

All of us were thankful to finally be able to enjoy some semblance of social "normality" again.

But it wasn't until I flew to Florida recently to visit a few high school pals that I was reminded of how enjoyable our pre-COVID lives were.

My first trip anywhere since February of 2020, Florida gave me a taste of



Tom Purcell

the basic freedoms many of us have been missing for two reasons:

First, before I flew to Pensacola, I had received both COVID vaccine shots.

Second, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis had eased many COVID restrictions in his state long ago.

For instance, in Florida masks are not required by law. Schools have been open for in-person learning since last August.

Restaurants and bars have been operating at 100% capacity since September. And the beaches were never closed.

Unlike my state, Pennsylvania, life in Florida was already semi-normal before the vaccines arrived.

Given his anti-lockdown sentiments, it's not surprising that DeSantis thinks the messaging on vaccines from our public health experts has been "horrific" — and backwards.

"The messaging should be, get a vaccine because it's good for you to do it," he says. "It works. You're not going to have to be doing anything abnormal. You can

live your life..."

DeSantis says that the "get-back-to-normal" message is muddled when you tell people after they've got the vaccine that they still have to wear masks, social distance and avoid social gatherings larger than a bridge club.

Whether you agree or disagree with DeSantis, you have to admit that he's correct when he says the official messaging on vaccines has been confusing — and still is.

According to Business Insider, just two weeks ago Dr. Fauci said "it's important for all Americans — both vaccinated and unvaccinated — to continue avoiding crowds and socially distancing until we know for sure that vaccinated people don't spread the virus."

I'm glad I'm not Governor of Florida. I'm certainly glad I don't have his and Dr. Fauci's responsibilities.

I don't know when — or, at this point, if — our lives will ever get back to some semblance of normalcy.

All I know is that for a few days I was able to sit outside in the warm Florida sun enjoying live music — and enjoying the simple freedom to gather and converse in a way I hope we'll all be free and safe to do again soon.

Tom Purcell, author of "Misadventures of a 1970's Childhood," a humorous memoir available at amazon.com, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist and is nationally syndicated exclusively by Cagle Cartoons Inc. Send comments to Tom at Tom@TomPurcell.com.



Myra Miller
Lifestyles

A day I will never forget

It was a Wednesday, April 25, 2018, when I received a call at work from my older brother. I could tell immediately in his voice that he was upset and advised me to get to my dad's house fast.

At this time I was preparing my camera and work note pad to leave for the annual Rotary sponsored Administrative of the Year event and luncheon at the St. Thomas More Church social hall.

I remember thinking to myself, I'm sure he will be okay. His doctors will probably see him fast, and I can still attend the work event, then head out to see him.

Little did I know and feared the most became the worse nightmare of my life. When I arrived at his home he was lying on his bedroom floor unconscious. My brother found him there and had immediately called 911 for medical emergency attention.

I was fearful, frightened, and very upset. I started crying uncontrollably. I remember kneeling next to him, speaking kind, gentle words, trying desperately for him to wake up.

The EMTs arrived fast and he was taken to Acadian Medical Centers' ER where a doctor saw him, and from there he advised us to immediately Air Med him to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Lafayette. He remained in a coma for the next four days and his wishes was not to be resuscitated. We honored his wishes.

I visited with him everyday at the hospital. I talked to him, and I held his hand. I told him how much I loved and appreciated him.

He died peacefully on a Sunday before 8:30 p.m. April 29 of 2018. He was 87. I paid a last visit with him in the morning hours of this date. I held his hand and told him to rest and not worry about momma because I would be there for her and make sure she was taken care of.

I think of my daddy everyday since then. What keeps me happy is knowing that he is at peace and in a better place.

I treasure the good and happy memories we shared together, as a young girl to an adult woman. Daddy possessed so much wisdom, loved unconditionally, gave of himself unselfishly, laughed so hard, and enjoyed life to the fullest each day. He was my 'Go to Person' when I had something weighing heavy on my mind or needed good sound advice.

Staying in touch

State representative

District 41 Rep. Phillip DeVillier (R), P.O. Box 986 Eunice, LA 70535; voice — 337-457-0194 fax — 337-457-5649; e-mail: devillierp@legis.la.gov.

State senators

District 28 Sen. Heather Cloud (R), P.O. Box 269, 13988 Veterans Memorial Highway, Turkey Creek, LA 70585. District phone voice 337-461-2595. E-mails:sen28@legis.la.gov.

District 24 Sen. Gerald Boudreaux (D), 2900 Moss St., Suite B, Lafayette, LA 70501; voice 337-267-7520 and 844-885-6578; e-mail: boudreauxg@legis.la.gov.

U.S. representatives

Mike Johnson, 327 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; phone, 202-225-2777. mikejohnson.house.gov.

U.S. senators

Bill Cassidy, 703 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510, phone: 202-224-5824, Fax: 202-224-5824.

John Kennedy, SRB11, Russell Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510; phone, 202-224-4623.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor are always welcome at the News, but it's necessary for confirmation/identification purposes to include author's printed name, signature and work/home telephone number.

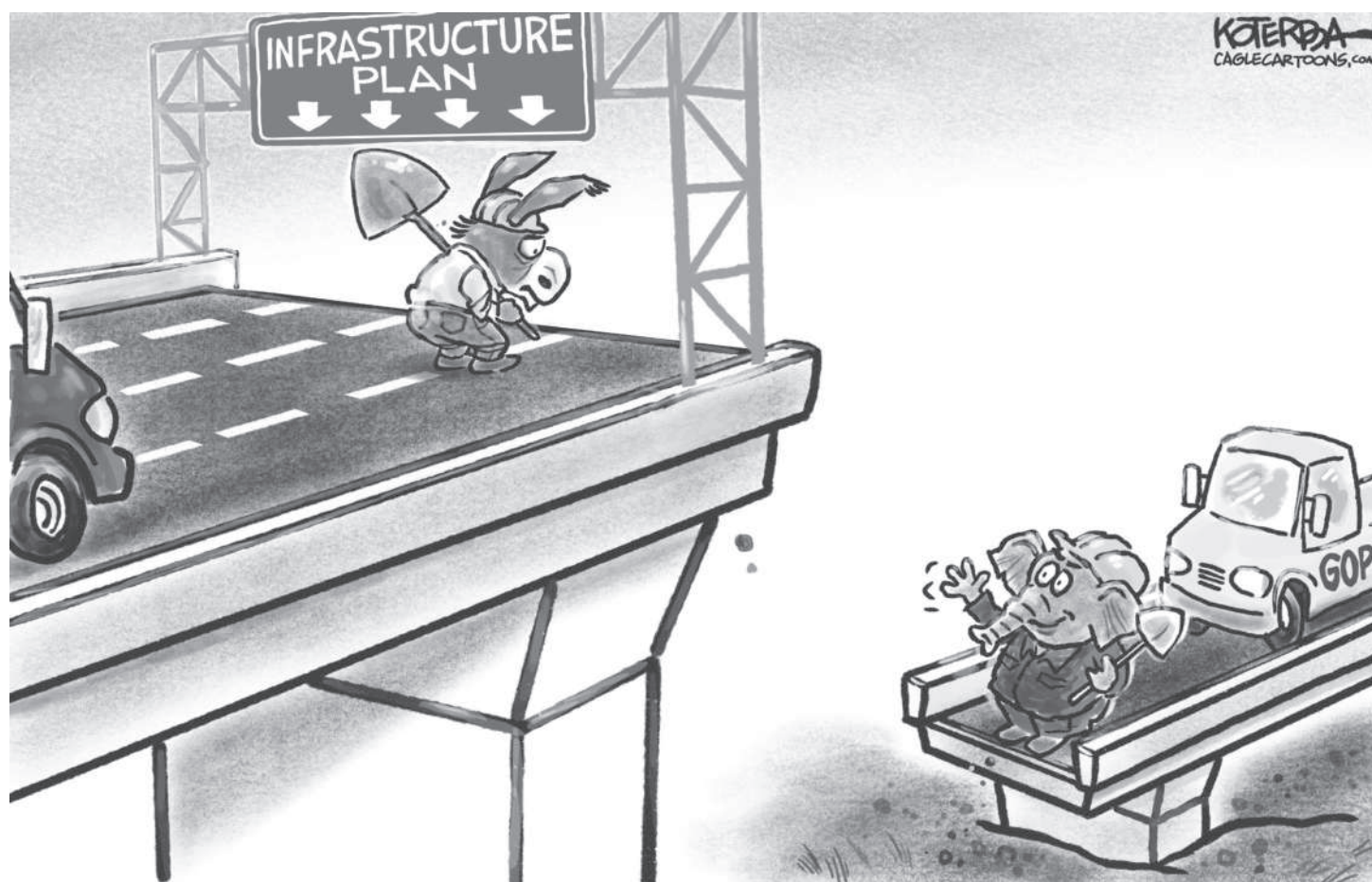
While the News does print the author's name it doesn't print telephone numbers or residence/business addresses unless such a request is made in writing on the letter. However, without a phone number to verify the letter, we can not print it. No anonymous letters are published.

Typed letters can be mailed to 465 Aymond, St., Eunice, LA 70535 or e-mailed to harlan.kirgan@eunicetoday.com.

Brevity is encouraged. We no longer accept hand-written letters. Letters we deem as political copy may be placed as advertising. All letters are subject to editing.

The First Amendment

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."



Protest or riot? It depends where you stand

When the Nazis wanted to march through Skokie, Ill., many of the residents were horrified. A large percentage were Jewish, and some had been interned in concentration camps. The memory of those camps was still vivid, since this was 1978, a mere three decades after World War II had ended.

I was in high school when the controversy erupted. At the time, the ACLU defended the Nazi group, which never ended up marching. But the fact that the storied civil rights organization swooped in to uphold the rights of evil men



Christine Flowers

seemed to me, at the time, incredibly honorable. No one would ever call me a card-carrying member of the ACLU, but the fact that it was able to see beyond the vile character of its client to the larger principle of free speech, assembly and expression taught this high school senior a valuable lesson in civics.

The right to protest, passionately, forcefully but peacefully, is a foundational bedrock of our democracy. The ACLU understood that four decades ago, in Skokie. And it's likely they'll come back to defend that principle in Florida. But there's a big difference, wrought from years of dangerous, anarchic explosions in the streets of our cities and towns.

Gov. Ron De Santis recently signed into law a set of prohibitions on "riots." The law is designed to prevent the type of demonstrations seen over the past few years in cities like Minneapolis, Seattle, Portland, Baltimore, Ferguson and Philadelphia.

According to the "Combating Public Disorder Act," people who engage in protests that become violent will be subject to increased criminal penalties. The bill also creates specific, new laws that prohibit mob intimidation and cyber intimidation.

It is designed to protect private citizens and law enforcement officers against violent riots. After having seen much of the country burning over the past few years in the wake of police shootings, many Americans have good reason to support De Santis even though, as was pointed out, Florida has had very few recent instances of mob violence.

But my old heroes of the ACLU have a problem with the law, using the classic "overbroad" argument. Kara Gross, legislative director of the Florida branch, stated that "The problem with this bill is that the language is so overbroad and vague ... that it captures anybody who is peacefully protesting at a protest that turns violent through no fault of their own ... those individuals who do not engage in any violent conduct under this bill can be arrested and charged with

a third-degree felony and face up to five years in prison and loss of voting rights. The whole point of this is to instill fear in Floridians."

The 18-year-old high school senior is now a 59-year-old attorney with three years of law school under her belt and three and a half decades of dealing with legal "word splitting." For that reason, I'm not moved by Gross' concerns with the law that, at its essence, puts protesters on notice that assaulting police officers, burning buildings, looting stores and attacking innocent bystanders is not constitutionally protected conduct.

If you are a peaceful protester, you will not find yourself involved with rioters. If you do see violence breaking out at the "Kumbaya" march you've organized, you either get out of there as quickly as possible, try and quell the violence, or call the police. Better yet, you make sure that the violent elements will be neutralized before they even have a chance to infiltrate your "peaceful protest."

I'm also not persuaded that these individuals referenced by Gross as "peacefully protesting at a protest that turns violent through no fault of their own" are entirely innocent. I said that same thing when I saw the "peaceful protesters" at the Capitol on Jan. 6. While the vast majority may indeed have gone to D.C. to air their grievances, the ones who got caught up in the violent assault on our Capitol can't hide behind the "I am innocent" mantra unless they can prove that they were, in fact, innocent.

What's good for the goose is good for the gander, or rather, what's good for the elephant is good for the donkey.

My point is that riots are easily distinguishable from protests, and there is a clear, bright line we can follow. The Florida law draws it, and the protests from my youthful heroes at the ACLU ring hollow.

In these moments when people like Maxine Waters are literally urging people to go into the streets and "confront" their opponents, and when we have those who condemned Donald Trump for dangerous rhetoric excusing her words, and when we have the media ginning up anger at the possibility of verdicts they don't like, it is inevitable that peaceful protests will be nothing more than a pipe dream.

Accompanied by pipe bombs. *Christine Flowers is an attorney and a columnist for the Delaware County Daily Times, and can be reached at cflowers1961@gmail.com.*

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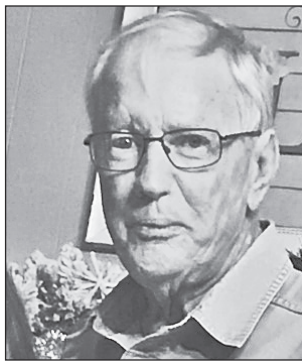
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John D. Laughlin

Jan. 19, 1946-April 26, 2021

IOTA—It is with heavy hearts that the family of John D. Laughlin announces his passing on Monday, April 26, 2021 at the Ochsner LSU Health Medical Center in Shreveport at the age of 75.



Natchitoches; four great grandchildren, Alexia, Logan, Laynie, and Dillon Saucier; and extended family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Helen Fontenot Laughlin; brother, Phillip Laughlin; and sister, Shelia Laughlin.

At the request of the family, visitation was held at Ardoin's Funeral Home in Iota on Wednesday, April 28 from 3 p.m. until 9 p.m. and again on Thursday, April 29 from 8 a.m. until time of services. A Rosary was prayed at 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

Family and friends may view this obituary and sign the guestbook at www.ardoinfuneralhomes.com

Ardoin's Funeral Home of Iota, 840 Howard Street, 337-779-3083 is in charge of arrangements.



A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Thursday, April 29, 2021 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Iota. Entombment will follow in the St. Joseph Mausoleum with Father Jude Thierry, Celebrant.

John enjoyed watching football, and being with his friends and family, but most of all he dearly loved spending time with his great grandchildren.

His passion and career was being a land surveyor. John was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend and will be dearly missed by all, including his wife of fifty two years, Shirley M. Laughlin of Natchitoches; daughter, Carla Kay Laughlin DeBord and husband, William of Natchitoches; brothers, Francis Laughlin and friend, Kat Manuel, and Michael Laughlin and wife, Debbie, all of Eunice; sisters, Marie Davis of Baytown, TX and Cathy Richard and husband, Russell of Eunice; grandson, Donovan Saucier and friend, Kayla Stanley of

Tax

(Continued from Page 1) said his school's track is the best in the parish, but presents safety hazards.

"Eunice High School prides itself in being self-sufficient as much as possible," he said.

"In 2015, we resurfaced parts of our own track with our own money with community support. Right at \$30,000 was what it cost," he said. "Since then we've used our track for parish track meets, junior high track meets, etc. We funded our track and everyone benefits from it, but it is hard to keep getting community support for our athletic projects especially in the COVID era. We have the best track in the parish, but take a look at it. We are down to running on cer-

tain lanes. It is getting to be a safety hazard and I don't know how much longer we'll be able to feasibly use our track and remember, this is the best track in the parish," he said.

Fontenot also presented the decaying conditions in the weight room and the gymnasium at Eunice High School.

"As you can see in the pictures we have multiple areas that broken tiles leaving small holes in the floor," he said the basketball court.

Fontenot also said bleachers on the south side of the gymnasium are mostly unusable.

"Over the years I've traveled to many schools throughout the state and seen what other schools have in their athletic facilities. If you compare them to what we have, I'm amazed at how much we've been able to ac-

complish. It is an unfair advantage these schools have over our students. Many people may say academics is a priority where money is concerned. True, but also athletics keep a lot of students in school so we can educate them," he said.

"If we start losing these students because of a lack of athletics then we will be losing them in the classroom as well," he said.

Eunice Board member Mary Ellen Donatto said of the tax proposal, "I understand we failed by almost 75% last time and we want to do everything in our power not to have that happen again and the way we are setting the stage right now we are promoting to fail and we don't want to do that to our students."

Donatto urged the Board to ask for one proposal on the ballot by com-

binning all needs.

"What I saw was horrible," she said the presentation on the athletic facilities.

"I can't help but think we have state championships in basketball, football. I can't begin to imagine what they would be like if they had those state of the art facilities," she said.

"That broke my heart for those kids to say the adults in the lives, 'Why does everybody else have stuff better than us?'" she said of student athletes comparing their facilities to those outside the parish.

"We need to get the public to understand," she said of comparing St. Landry Parish public school facilities to those in other parishes.

The tax issue is going to the full Board on Thursday.

Mask

(Continued from Page 1) and we've seen the positive impact in our own state. It's intuitive for people to protect themselves with masks in higher risk situations, and this important mitigation measure should continue. But we have many more tools for slowing the spread of COVID than we did even a few months ago, including better treatments and, most importantly, several highly effective and safe vaccines," Edwards said.

"I want to be clear: this is not the end of wearing masks in public, as COVID-19 and the spread of variants are still a real threat in our communities. Louisianans should respect each other and businesses and places where masks will be required as we move into a new phase of slowing the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. I will continue to wear a mask in government buildings and in public, especially when I do not know if someone around me has

been vaccinated, and I encourage everyone to do this as well."

The order the governor signed Tuesday also eases restrictions on live music and allows some businesses, like salons, to re-open their waiting areas. Outdoor events will no longer have crowd limitations.

Social distancing and masking are recommended by both the state of Louisiana and the CDC.

Lifting of the mask mandate does not affect the COVID-19 liability protections that were enacted by the Louisiana Legislature which require businesses and schools to follow the recommendations of state and federal health authorities, all of which recommend continued mask wearing.

For theaters, event spaces, festivals and fairs and other outdoor events, there will be no limitations on outdoor capacity. Indoors, a facility may choose to operate at 75 percent capacity while enforcing six feet of social distancing or at 100 percent capacity with masking required and enforced.

For indoor sporting events, capacity is limited to 75 percent of capacity with social distancing, or 100 percent capacity if a mask mandate is enforced at the venue. Capacity will not be limited outdoors.

For live music, new regulations will require 10 feet of space between the stage and the audience and crowds must be seated. Bars will still only be open to those 21 and older.

State agencies may choose to opt-out of the mask mandate for state-owned buildings in writing to the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and also must inform people entering the building that masks are not mandatory. All state agencies in the Governor's cabinet and under the Governor's authority will keep their mask mandates.

The Department of Health additionally will issue a state health officer order that will mandate masks in all health care facilities.

The Louisiana Department of Health recommends that the public follow the "Two out of Three" rule to keep themselves safe during COVID.

When in doubt about whether to wear a mask at a certain activity where people outside of a person's everyday household will be present, they can stay safe by:

— Making sure everyone around them is vaccinated, or

— Maintaining the 2 out of 3 Rule: To lower risk for COVID-19, make sure the activity meets two out of the following three conditions: Outdoors, Distanced and Masked.

— Outdoors + Distanced = No Mask Recommended;

— Outdoors + Not Distanced = Mask Recommended; and

— Indoor + Distanced = Mask Recommended.

Residents can call the Bring Back Louisiana COVID-19 vaccine hotline at 1-855-453-0774 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday. The hotline can help residents schedule vaccine appointments, find vaccine providers in their area and connect people with medical professionals who can answer vaccine-related questions.

Arrests

(Continued from Page 3)

Luther King Jr. Drive, Opelousas. Bench warrant. Arrested by other agency.

Kenneth Orthel Tyler II, 43, 16000 block of Defco, Houston, Texas. Bench warrant. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

April 23
Johnathan Alfred, 37, 300 block of Acadia Street, Eunice. Illegal possession of stolen things, theft. Arrested by Eunice Police.

David W. Cortez, 35, 1800 Attalas, Ville Platte. Operating a vehicle while intoxicated, careless operation of a motor, open container, possession of Schedule I CDS. Arrested by Opelousas Police.

Terrill D. Cretain, 32, 100 block of Tulane Avenue, Opelousas. Bench warrant. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Jessie Dixon, 50, 100 Broomfield Loop, Sunset. Driving while intoxicated (first offense), careless operation of a motor. Arrested by Louisiana State Police.

Austin Michael Hack, 23, 200 block of Ginger Street, Lafayette. Domestic abuse with strangulation-Child endangerment. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Raymond Haynes, 36, 900 block of Lastrapes Street, Opelousas. Simple battery. Arrested by Opelousas Police.

Vincent Landry Jr., 33, 700 block of Andrepoint Road, Opelousas. Bench warrant. Arrested by Louisiana State Police.

Guiyland Leday, 23, 100 block of Choupique Road, Opelousas. Domestic abuse battery, bench warrant. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Keith Lashaun Metz, 26, 1300 block of Nash Drive, Opelousas. Bench warrant, maximum speed limit, penalties, prohibited acts-Schedule II CDS, possession with intent to distribute Schedule I CDS, prohibited acts-drug paraphernalia. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

April 26
Arwander Smith, 35, 1300 block of Park Avenue, Opelousas. Bench warrant. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Joshlin Soileau, 31, 500 block of Vincent Street, Opelousas. Simple robbery, theft. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Tykelan J. Jackson, 19, 1100 block of W. Cherry Street, Opelousas. Bench warrant. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Matthew Sleigh Kibodeaux, 32, 600 block of Bernice Street, Eunice. Bench warrant, 4 counts,

resisting a police officer with force or violence, possession of Schedule I CDS, drug paraphernalia. Arrested by Eunice Police.

Terry Jude Brown, 40, 100 block of Lou Ana Lane, Washington. Theft. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Cedrick Paul Jones, 26, 200 block of E. Beech Street, Ville Platte. Bench warrant, resisting an officer, drug paraphernalia, driver must be licensed. Arrested by Opelousas Police.

Joseph Brandon Manuel, 34, 4900 block of Highway 31, Opelousas. Operating a vehicle while intoxicated (first offense), careless operation, no seatbelt, open alcoholic container, threatening a public officer. Arrested by Louisiana State Police.

Lawrence James Charlot, 50, 100 block of 3rd Street, Mamou. Operating a vehicle while intoxicated (first offense), careless operation. Arrested by Louisiana State Police.

Tasha Carriere, 43, 200 block of St. Andrew Road, Opelousas. Domestic abuse battery by strangulation/Child endangerment. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Joseph Richard Bell, 39, 900 block of Perry Lane, Opelousas. Violation of protective order, aggravated burglary, simple assault. Arrested by Opelousas Police.

Aaron Markeith Sampy, 30, 100 block of Still Water, Carencro. Domestic abuse battery by strangulation, resisting an officer. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Jcomb Demond Richard, 43, 100 block of W. Grolee Street, Opelousas. Bench warrant. Arrested by Opelousas Police.

David Wayne Francis, 27, 200 block of Pavy Road, Opelousas. Bench warrant. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Christopher Wayne Adams, 34, 3300 block of Allene Street, Brusly. Bench warrant. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Shanique Monique Locks, 28, 700 block of Augusta Street, Opelousas. Simple battery. Arrested by Opelousas Police.

Gary Anthony Guidry, 55, 500 block of E. St. Peter Street, Opelousas. Domestic abuse battery. Arrested by Opelousas Police.

Jason P. Fontenot, 39, 1800 block of Rider Road, Ville Platte. Operating a vehicle without registration, suspended license/operating vehicle, possession of Schedule I CDS, possession of Schedule II CDS, possession of Schedule IV CDS, domestic abuse battery, prohibited acts. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

BESE

(Continued from Page 1)

Through a combination of Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) and Preschool Development Birth through Five (PDG B-5) Renewal Grant funding, BESE awarded a total of \$30,193,636 during its April meeting.

"It is critically important to expand access to quality early childhood learning throughout Louisiana," said BESE President and Early Childhood Care and Education Commission member Sandy Holloway. "The allocation of these federal dollars will support the work of local Ready Start Networks to engage and serve more of our state's youngest learners, boost child care options for families and make a significant impact for those in great-

est need of assistance."

Ready Start Networks will offer B-3 seats in partnership with Type III child care centers rated Proficient or higher and in classrooms with teachers who have or are on the path to earning the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate (ECAC). This funding will also allow networks to support the quality of the classroom where the seats are located, through measures such as educator professional development or tier 1 curriculum and classroom material purchases.

This marks the second year of the B-3 seats pilot. In the 2020-2021 school year, the Department funded 660 seats in 13 Ready Start Networks using PDG Renewal Grant funding. The recent CRRSA Act funding allows the pilot to nearly double the number of communities receiving seats in 2021-2022, quadrupling the total number of

children served.

In Louisiana, even prior to the pandemic, fewer than 7% of in-need children birth to 2 years old, and less than 33% of 3 year olds have access to high-quality child care. The federal stimulus packages provide a bridge to 2024 and an opportunity to address these access challenges in the short-term. However, there must be state and local efforts to sustain these seats no later than 2024 to meaningfully expand access to high-quality early care and education options for families in every parish in the state in the long-term. As part of that work, Ready Start Networks will create funding and sustainability plans to help ensure the tenability of these seats beyond the timeframe of the grant.

Participating Ready Start Networks in year two of the B-3 seats pilot program are Caddo Par-

ish Schools, Calcasieu Parish Schools, East Baton Rouge Parish School Systems, Iberville Parish Schools, Jefferson Parish Schools, Lafayette Parish School Systems, Lincoln Parish Schools, Delta Community Action Agency (lead agency for Madison Parish), Children's Coalition for North-east Louisiana (lead agency for Morehouse and Richland Parishes), Natchitoches Parish School Board, Agenda for Children (lead agency for Orleans Parish), Rapides Parish School Board, Sabine Parish Schools, St. Charles Parish Public Schools, St. Landry Parish School Board, St. Mary Community Action Agency, Inc., Tangipahoa Parish School System, Vermillion Parish School District, Washington Parish School System, Webster Parish School Board and West Baton Rouge Parish School Board.

News notes

home.

Parents are asked to stay with their children during the entire fun event. If one is interested in helping to sponsor this event, call Randy Miller at 337-580-2993 or email him at ramillerag@gmail.com

The Eunice Community Garden is located at 2101 West Ash, in Eunice, directly behind the DMV.

All members are encouraged to attend and to bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Eunice Food Bank

New membership is always open.

For more information call Angela Huckaby at 580-1928.

"Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World"

A morning of reflection for women is being offered by Petals of Mercy, a Theresian community in Eunice on May 7.

The event will take place in the Jeanmard Hall at 250 N. 3rd St. in Eunice with refreshments

from 8:30 to 9 a.m. and the program ending at 11 a.m.

The theme for the morning will be "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World".

There will be no charge for attending, however a love offering will be accepted with funds going to the New Life Pregnancy Center.

Come and start off your Mother's Day weekend with a gift to yourself. To register call 337-457-7046, as space will be limited.

Deadline to sign up is Tuesday.

For more information, call 337-945-0701.

Daily rosary to begin in May

Beginning May 1 and throughout the month of May, Court Eunice 208, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, will be praying a daily rosary at 5:30 p.m.

The public is invited to join in the rosary garden in front of St. Anthony Church Rectory, located at 310 W. Vine St.

CDA meeting set for May 3

Court Eunice 208 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will hold its monthly meeting at 6 p.m., Monday at the Jeanmard Hall, at North 3rd Street.

National Day of Prayer set May 6

The National Day of Prayer will be observed at noon, Thursday, May 6 at the Eunice City Hall parking lot area.

The public is invited. For more information, call the Rev. Caleb Semien at 457-2891.

Concert Band, Choir rehearsals set

The Eunice Community Concert Band and Choir will begin rehearsals on May 10 for the choir and May for the 11 band for their 31st Anniversary Concert, "Be Our Guest."

Concert dates are July 15 and 16.

For more information call 337-457-1776.

Free Hula Hoop Class at the Garden

There will be a free Hula Hoop Class at the Eunice Community Garden on May 15.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. The class begins at 9:15 a.m. The first 100 children will receive a Free Hula Hoop to bring

Dana Dubois Guthrie
April 29, 1964 - October 24, 2017

Happy Birthday! We miss you!
Life goes on, but you're not forgotten. With each passing day, your spirit is remembered with laughter and tears. Another year has passed, but our hearts are still heavy. We love you!

Sadly Missed & Loved by, Your Family

Senior Hall of Fame at Eunice High



Eunice High School named its Senior Hall of Fame. Those students include, seated, from left, Whitney Ardoin, Bailey Trischell, McKenzie Guillory, Trissidy Semien and Anna Bielstein. In back, from left, are Kiley Tauzin, Anzley Fontenot, Fred Guillory, Jaime Mitchell, and Hayden Gil. (Submitted photo)

Hands-on math learning at St. Edmund



Katie Cormier's middle school students at St. Edmund used a hands-on math approach which allows them to learn through a concrete learning experience before they are exposed to more of the abstract learning that takes place when students solve equations. Sixth grade students figured out fractions, decimals, and percents for each of the colors in a small bag of cereal. Pictured is Sloane Cart. (Submitted photos)

Students of the Week at Glendale Elementary



Students of the Week at Glendale Elementary were honored. Those receiving special recognition for the week of April 26-30 included, in front, from left, Kiya Carmouche, Josslyn Ebers, Jose Rico, Nicholas Kennedy, Trinity Young, Hadlee Smith, Madalyn Skinner and Zailynn Taylor. In back, from left, are Cody James, Ava Rideaux, Katelyn Klumpp, Gavin Alfred, Brianna Lopez, Cameron Freeman and Braelyn Gustin. (Submitted photo)

Birth notes

Kaizley Poncho

Dual Blake Marcantel and Kaylyn Mariah Poncho of Eunice announce the birth of their daughter, *Kaizley Jaquelyn Deon Poncho*, born at Acadian Medical Center on April 14 weighing 7 pounds and 10.8 ounces.

Maternal grandparents are Bradley Poncho and Kayla Battise.

Paternal grandparents are Hilton Langley and Brenda Marcantel.

Liv Sinclair

Logan Sinclair of Oak-

dale and Lexis Sharp of Sugartown announce the birth of their daughter, *Liv Presley Sinclair*, born at Acadian Medical Center on April 21 weighing 7 pounds and 10 ounces.

Maternal grandparents are Amanda Bartlett and Dexter Bartlett of Sugartown.

Paternal grandparents are Wendel and Charlotte Sinclair of Elizabeth.

E'Arlynn Williams

Nadreshia Prudhomme and Eric Williams of Eunice announce the birth of

their daughter, *E'Arlynn Dawn Williams*, born at Acadian Medical Center on April 21 weighing 6 pounds and 15.2 ounces.

Maternal grandparents are Pauline Guillory of Eunice and John Prudhomme of Eunice.

Paternal grandmother is Brandy Williams of Eunice.

She was welcomed home by Nevaeh Williams, Zayen Williams, and Hayen Williams.



St. Edmund seventh-grader Stella Summerlin performs a hands-on math project. She created a scale drawing of their bedrooms.

Attention all graduating seniors

Graduation will be approaching soon and much is needed ahead of time for the newspaper's special graduation edition.

Eunice High and St. Edmund seniors are to email their senior bios.

Information needed: name, school, parents' name, home phone number, activities (include years involved), awards (at school only), and plans after graduation. The phone number

will not be published, used only if needed for questions.

This information can be emailed to: myra.miller@eunicetoday.com

Deadline is Before May 1. No late entries will be accepted.

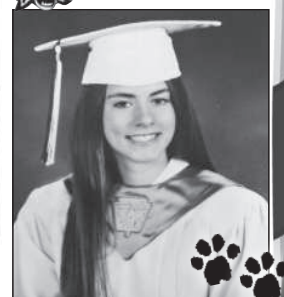
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The Eunice News

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Moosa leads Bobcats earn walk-off win

By Tom Dodge
Sports Editor

With three weeks left in the Eunice Mens Tennis League spring competition, the battle for the final two top spots continues.

After nine weeks, Team Moosa leads with 48 points, followed by Team Eckholdt (44), Team Ashford (38) and Team D'Aubin.

Team Moosa moved into first place with an 8-4 win over Team Ashford.

On Court One, Team Moosa's Sam Andrus and Dominic Sonnier earned a 6-3, 6-4 win over Team Ashford's Chris Ardoin and John Phil Fontenot.

On Court Two, team captain Dustin Ashford and Robby Brown battled to a 6-2, 5-7, 10-7 tiebreaker over Team Moosa's John Fruge and Darren D'Aubin.

On Court Three, team captain Steven Moosa and Keith Fontenot earned a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Team Ashford's Paul Brown and Deacon Richard.

On Court Four, Team Moosa's Kenneth Pitre and Wayne Miller grabbed a 6-4, 6-4 win over Team Ashford's Lance Pitre and Charles Barbier.

On Court Five, Team Ashford's Mike Conner and Quade Fontenot earned a 6-2, 4-6 10-6 split set win over Team Moosa's Jeff Bruner and Kirk Young.

In other tennis action, Team Eckholdt grabbed a 9-3 win over Team D'Aubin.

On Court One, Team D'Aubin's Darryl Carrier and Terry Hoychick earned a 7-6, 1-6, 6-3 win over Team Eckholdt's Chris Gaspard and Rodney Sonnier.

On Court Two, team captain Scott Eckholdt and Jacque Pucheu grabbed a 6-1, 6-1 win over Team D'Aubin's Scott Manuel and Deacon Richard.

On Court Three, Team Eckholdt's Keith Fontenot and Philippe Soileau battled to a 7-6, 3-6, 10-5 tiebreaker over Team D'Aubin's Ernie Goleman and Vernon Fuselier.

On Court Four, Team Eckholdt's Joe Stemplewski and Rodney Sonnier earned a 6-2, 7-5 win over Team D'Aubin's Chip Thibodeaux and Dan Fontenot.

On Court Five, Team Eckholdt's John Pucheu and Jeff Bruner rolled to a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Team D'Aubin's Randy Fruge and Steve Dischler.



Eunice High catcher Zac Suire, left, talks with Bobcat pitcher Hudson Manuel during a timeout at Monday's first round playoff game against Northwood-Shreveport.

By Tom Dodge
Sports Editor

It was a dramatic way to open the Class 4-A playoffs for the Bobcats.

Zach Suire scored when Dylan Guillory drew a bases-loaded walk to lift No. 15 Eunice to a 6-5 win over No. 18 Northwood of Shreveport.

Trailing 5-4 heading to the bottom of the seventh inning, the Bobcats' rally started when Jahiem Mitchell was hit by a pitch and Suire walked.

Hudson Manuel reached on an error that allowed Mitchell to score and tie the game, 5-5.

Dylan Darbonne was hit by a pitch to load the bases and Guillory's free base sealed the walk-off win for the Bobcats.

Northwood (12-20) grabbed the lead in the top of the seventh, begun when Mason Welch walked and later Brendan Burns and Cayne Little were both hit by pitches.

Welch tied the game when he scored on a fly out by Yancey Upchurch.

Hutson Hearron reached on an error that allowed Burns to score and give the visiting Falcons a one-run lead.

The Bobcats grabbed the early 1-0 lead when Mitchell doubled in the first inning and courtesy runner Jullian Hudson scored on a single by Hudson Manuel.

After three scoreless innings, Eunice added two runs in the bottom of the fifth to push ahead, 3-0.

Hayden Darbonne drew a two-out walk and Mitchell followed with a single.

Mitchell scored on a hit by Suire, while Mitchell advanced home on a Northwood error.

The Falcons responded with three runs in the top of the sixth to tie the game.

Upchurch doubled and scored on a hit by Hayden Phipps.

Ryan Gardner reached on an error and Luke Bloxom tied the game with a 2-RBI single.

The Bobcat defense stopped the Northwood rally when courtesy runner Collin Saunders was tagged out in a steal attempt.

Eunice grabbed a 4-3 advantage in the bottom of the sixth inning when Dylan Darbonne doubled and scored off a double by Price Myers.

Both teams finished with nine hits and two errors. Mitchell finished 2-for-3 with two runs scored.

Manuel went 2-for-4 with one RBI.

Dylan Darbonne finished 2-for-2 and a run scored.

Eunice (16-16) will rally to No. 2 North DeSoto for a best-of-three series that begins at 6 p.m. on Friday.

The two teams will face each other again at 12 p.m. Saturday with the if-necessary game to follow at 3 p.m.

North DeSoto (29-4) opened the playoffs with a 13-3 mercy-rule win over No. 31 Morgan City.

Blue Jays visit CHPC Hornets

By Tom Dodge
Sports Editor

The Blue Jays will face a familiar foe as St. Edmund opens the Division IV baseball playoffs Friday at Catholic High of Pointe Coupee.

No. 5 Catholic High-PC (23-7) will host the best-of-three series that begins at 4 p.m. Friday.

The second game is set for 11 a.m. Saturday with the if necessary game to follow at 2 p.m.

No. 12 St. Edmund (10-16) grabbed the District 5-1A championship with four straight wins including victories over Sacred Heart of Ville Platte, (11-1), Opelousas Catholic (1-0), CHPC (10-3) and Westminster Christian Academy (10-0).

The 2020 season was halted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2019, Sacred Heart swept the Blue Jays, 7-4, 13-1 to open the playoffs.

In 2018, St. Edmund fell to No. 1 St. John, 8-0, 14-4.

The Blue Jays' last playoffs wins came in 2016 as St. Edmund opened with Class 1-A victories over Ascension Christian (5-4) and Covenant Christian (6-2) before falling to Oak Grove in the quarterfinals, 11-1.

No. 7 Opelousas Catholic (17-13) will host No. 10 Metairie Park Country Day (15-5) in a series that begins Friday.

In Class 3-A, No. 15 Pine Prairie fell 3-1 to No. 18 Kaplan Monday.

No. 22 Church Point lost to 6-1 to No.11 Westlake on Tuesday.

No. 30 Mamou lost 11-1 at No. 2 Lutchter on Monday.

Bulldogs down Albany

By Tom Dodge
Sports Editor

IOTA - The Bulldogs exploded for four runs in the first inning as No. 4 Iota opened the playoffs Monday with a 8-3 win over No. 29 Albany.

Gavin Leblanc and Tyler Lejeune both walked and scored when Dawson Wallace reached on an error.

Wallace would later score on a wild pitch as Iota led 3-0.

Nicholas Duplechain singled and courtesy runner Eli Ardoin scored on a hit by Andrew Mouton.

Iota added three more runs in the fourth inning, begun when Leblanc doubled and scored on an Albany error.

Wallace walked and scored on a hit by Duplechain to push the Bulldogs ahead, 6-0.

Courtesy runner Ardoin crossed home plate on another Albany miscue.

Iota added an insurance run in the bottom of the fifth when Lejeune singled and scored on a Hornet error.

Albany pushed in a run in the top of the sixth when Rhett Wolfe reached

By Tom Dodge
Sports Editor

The St. Edmund track team performed well at the District 5-A meet and will compete in several events at the regionals to be held today at New Iberia Senior High.

The Blue Jays and Lady Jays finished as district runners-up behind Westminster Christian Academy.

In the boys competition, the Blue Jays finished first in three relays to advance to regionals.

Alex Fontenot, Nic Fontenot, Easten Coleman and Luke Trahan won the 4x100-meter relay with a time of 45.63.

They also won the 4x200 meter relay with a time of 1:37.56.

Koy Trahan, Taylor Daire, Kaleb George and Gus Brown won the 4x400-meter relay with a time of 3:50.82.

Coleman finished second in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.88 and finished fourth in 300-meter hurdles.

Gus Brown finished second in the 400-meter dash with a time of 56.89.

Javelin - Clay Miller won the javelin with a throw of 123-1, while Ian Dupre finished fourth (106-4).

Alex Fontenot was second in the triple jump (39-2.5) and third in the long



St. Edmund's Luke Trahan takes the baton from Easten Coleman. (Photo by Tom Dodge)

jump (19-3).

Connor Diaz finished second in the discus with a throw of 97-11.

Gus Brown was second in the pole vault (8-5) and Dylan Miller finished



Eunice High's Ally Ogea and Kelly Sonnier advanced to the second round of the state tennis tournament with a 2-1 win over Caddo Magnet's Keya Effit and Vivian Vekovius. Ogea and Sonnier then fell 2-0 to Leah Medine and Halie Medine of Woodlawn-Baton Rouge in the Div. II second round. (Submitted Photo)

third (8-0).

Kieran Davis finished third in the shot put (38-8) and Connor Diaz was fourth (36-2).

Two Blue Jays qualified in the 110-meter hurdles

as Justin Landry was third (18.88) and Kieran Davis finished fourth (19.78).

Kaleb George was third in the 200-meter dash with a time of 25.13.

Dominic Prudhomme finished fourth in the 800 meters with a time of 2:25.71, while Blake Summerlin was fourth in the 3,200 meters with a time of 14:25.07. (4th place)

In the girls competition, Ellie Manuel won the high jump with a leap of 4-6, while Mary Beth Lafleur captured the javelin title with a throw of 115-9.

Anna Chapman was second in the shot put with a throw of 31-3.5 and Alice Brown finished third (26-8).

Manuel finished third in the javelin (108-8) and the 100-meter dash with a time of 14.15.

Chapman finished third in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 20.74.

Tanzy Miller, Alice Brown, Chapman and Manuel finished third in the 4x100 meter relay with a time of 57.54.

Madison Comeau captured second in the discus with a throw of 92-7, while Helen Brown was third (77-10).

Savannah Devillier was third in the triple jump with a leap of 29-0.

Julia Zaunbrecher was fourth in the 300-meter hurdles (1:00.34) and the long jump (12-0).

The top four finishers advanced to regionals with the top three moving on to the state meet held

See Track on Page 8

Track

From Page 7

on May 6 at LSU's Bernie Moore track complex.

District 4-4A

In the District 4-4A meet held at the Rayne High athletic complex, Eunice High finished fourth in both the boys and girls divisions.

Michael Gaspard captured second place in the 800 meters with a time of 2:20.66.

Celment Joseph finished third in the 400 meters with a time of 53.47.

Gabriel Manuel was third in the 1,600 meters with a time of 5:14.

Caleb Simien was second in the javelin with a toss of 116-01.

The Bobcats finished second in the 4x200 relay (1:35.99), the 4x400 relay (3:35.37) and the 4x800 relay (9:20.81).

Jesten Calloway finished fourth in the 100 meters with a time of 11.81.

In the girls competition, Saige Freeman won the long jump with a leap of 19-01.

Allison Freeman finished second in the discus with a throw of 101-08 and was third in the javelin (98-03).

Akashaa Hall finished third in the 1,600 meters with a time of 7:04.86.

Madison Freeman was third in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 53.12.

The Lady Cats finished third in the 4x400 relay with a time of 4:42.70.

Brilye Reed was fourth in the triple jump with a leap of 29-11.

The Class 4-A state meet will be held on May 8 at LSU.

District 5-3A

IOTA - The Church Point Bears scored 38 points in the won the 4x100 (45.00), the 4x200 (1:32.59) and the 4x400 (3:42.05) and placed second in the 4x800 relay (9:19.97) and finished with 130 points behind league champion Northwest, which tallied 136 points.

The Bears also added four individual district champions.

Dylan Stelly claimed the title in the javelin with a throw of 153-3; Khaled Babineaux won

the long jump (20-7 ¼), Bryce LeJeune was the champion in the 3200 (12:16.42) and Armstead Mouton was the champion in the 200-meter dash (23.23).

Stelly also scored a third-place finish in the shot put (40-4); Babineaux was third in the high jump (5-8) and LeJeune finished fourth in the 1600 (5:19.03).

Scoring runners-up finishes for the Bears were Eli Noel in the 800 (2:20.08); Tylon Citizen in the triple jump (39-7) and Jamarrion Citizen in the shot put (42-10 ¼). He also placed third in the discus (116-1).

Iota claimed a pair of titles with Christian Beasley in the pole vault (8-6) and Ashton Breaux in the discus (134-0).

Landon Trahan added a second place showing in the pole vault (6-0) and he was third in the 800 (2:21.73).

Logan Smith was the runners-up in the 400 (52.92) and Kevin Colson was second in the 1600 (5:17.34) and third in the 3200 (12:25.59).

Qualifying for regionals with fourth place fin-

ishes were Wyatt Gobert in the shot put (40-0 ½) and Connor Bergeron in the javelin (118-8).

The Bulldogs also logged fourth place finishes in the 4x400 relay (3:50.81) and the 4x800 relay (9:44.92).

Northwest also won the district title on the girls side with 136 points.

Ville Platte followed with 132 points, Church Point was third with 110 and Iota finished fifth with 49.

The Lady Bears were led by standout Olivia Bundy, who qualified for the regional meet in four events.

The senior logged a pair of victories in the hurdle events, winning the 100 in a time of 15.20 and the 300 in a time of 45.69.

Bundy also placed second in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.85 and she was fourth in the 200 (28.01).

Also winning individual titles were Amelia Dailey in the discus (88-9) and Macy Dailey in the javelin (116-0). Amelia Dailey also placed second in the shot put

(29-0 ¼).

Madison Melancon added a second-place showing in the 400 (1:05.26) and the Lady Bears' were also second in the 4x200 relay (1:54.49) and the 4x400 (4:40.62).

Shaine Parker grabbed a podium spot in the 300-hurdles with a third place time of 54.58, Alexa Gobert was fourth in the 800 (2:53.89) and Sondrea Woods was fourth in the discus (67-1).

The Lady Bears 4x100 relay team also placed fourth with a time of 55.8.

Iota's Lady Bulldogs were led by Madelyn Boone and Jules Ronkartz, who both qualified for regionals in two events.

Boone was second in the 100 hurdles (16.31) and the 300 hurdles (50.82) and Ronkartz placed second in both the 1600 (6:26.51) and the 3200 (14:42.05).

Also placing second were Chelsea Thibodeaux in the discus (77-1) and Bailey Benton in the long jump (15-1).

Iota

From Page 7

on an error and scored on another Bulldog miscue.

The Hornets added two more runs in the seventh when Austin Watts walked and Justin Coats followed with a home run over the right field fence to close the gap to 8-3.

Duplechain earned the complete game win as he allowed two earned runs on two hits with 11 strikeouts and two walks.

Iota finished with nine hits, led by Mouton (3-for-4, RBI), Leblanc (2-for-4, 2 RS) and Duplechain (2-for-3, RBI).

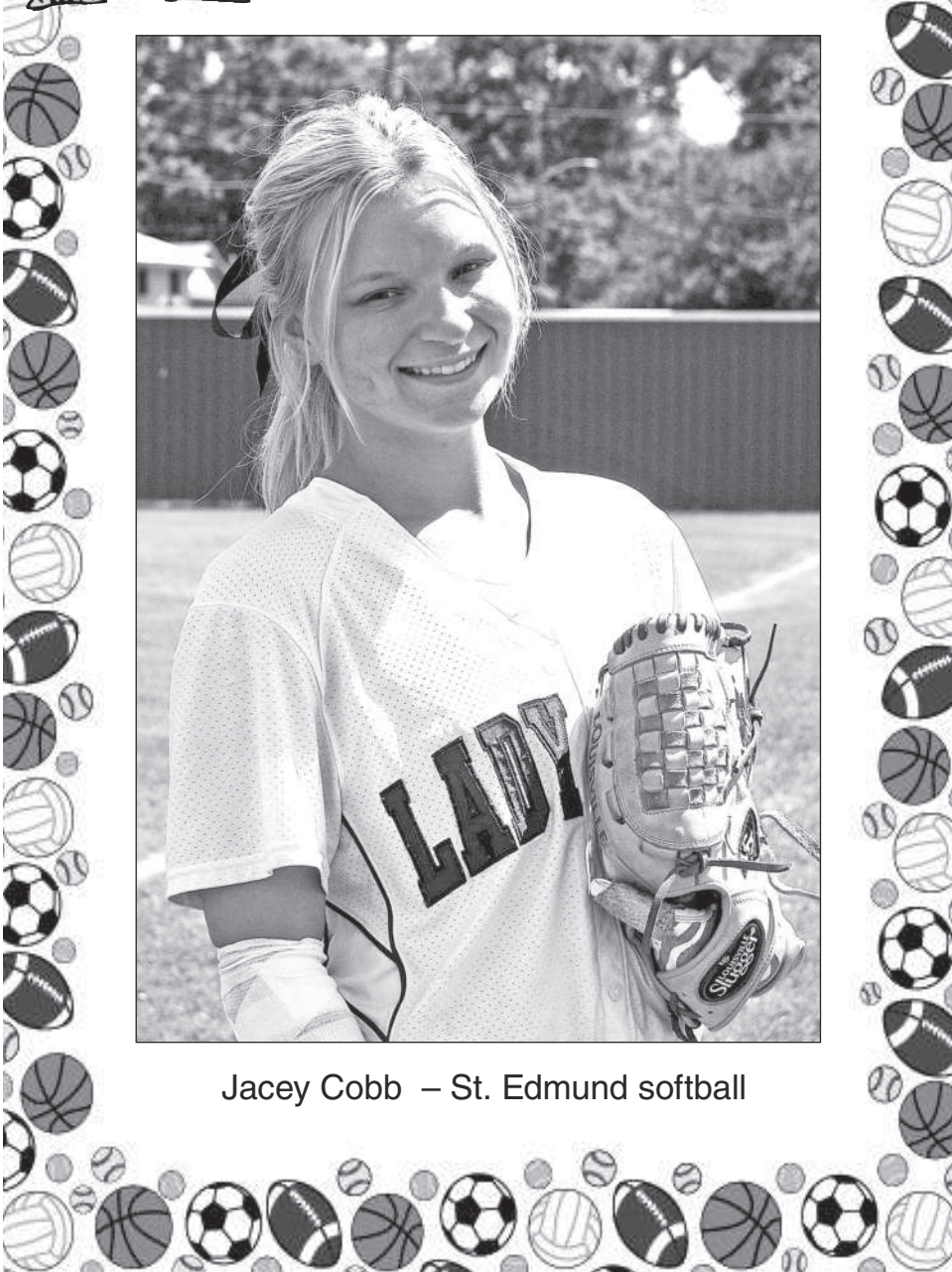
Iota will entertain No. 13 Grant for a best-of-three regional round series.

Grant rolled to a 22-3 win over No. 20 Erath to open the playoffs.

The COVID-19 pandemic halted the 2020 season.

No. 5 Iota advanced to the state quarterfinals in 2019 with wins over Bogalusa and Jennings before falling to Berwick in a three-game series, 2-1.

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Devotional Page

The Stages of Life

"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."
1 Peter 2:2-3 NIV

Life is a series of stages, each of which builds on the previous stages: birth, infancy, youth, adolescence, adulthood, etc. One of the great ironies of life is that when we have finally figured out or mastered each stage, it is usually over and we are onto the next stage, with its own challenges which we must figure out once again. Children must learn to walk before they can run, and adults must learn to navigate the many challenges of living well before they can handle the challenges of senescence or declining health that comes with advanced age. In our youth we are growing and developing, but once we get to a certain point it is more accurate to say that we are aging. This does not mean that we cannot continue to grow in other ways. We may begin to decline physically in our thirties



and forties and yet still be learning new skills and developing abilities into our seventies and eighties. There is more to life than physical development. We should develop our mental, emotional, and spiritual selves as well as our physical selves. And even as our physical selves decline, we often find that we continue to grow spiritually, trusting in God and developing the spiritual tools to meet our next stage of life, and even preparing for the afterlife.
-Christopher Simon

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Rev. Dennis Gotreaux, Pastor

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331 Jake St. - Eunice - (337) 305-2118
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Rev. Chris Frye, Pastor

New Zion Baptist Church
251 Nimitz St. - Eunice - 457-4506 or 550-7027
Rev. Allen W. Ben, Pastor

North Eunice Baptist Church
Hwy. 13 N. 2080 Veteran Memorial Hwy.
Eunice - 546-0461
Dr. Marvin Jones, Pastor

Overcomer's Christian Center
701 Lester Street
Eunice - (337) 290-1719
Dr. Ivory Beavers, Sr, Pastor

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Pastor Jamie Tyler

Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
1154 Academy Dr., Hwy. 370
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PUBLIC NOTICE

SUCCESSION OF AURLIEN EDWARDS, A/K/A AURELIEN EDWARDS AND MAYA VALLIER EDWARDS, A/K/A MAYA VALARE EDWARDS, IN COMMUNITY

* PROBATE DOCKET NO. 20-P-2140-D

* 27TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

* ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA

NOTICE

NOTICE IS GIVEN to the creditors of this succession and to all other interested persons that a Tableau of Distribution has been filed by the Administrator of this Succession along with a petition praying for homologation of the Tableau and for authority to pay the debts and expenses listed on the Tableau of Distribution filed in this matter.

This Tableau can be homologated and the Administrator can be authorized to pay the debts shown therein after the expiration of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. Any opposition to the petition and Tableau of Distribution must be filed before the homologation of the tableau.

By order of this Court, this 20 day of April 7, 2021, at Opelousas, Louisiana.

/s/ Abbie Prudhomme
DEPUTY CLERK

(PUBLISH: APRIL 29, 2021) 1T

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE OF BID

THE ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD, PATRICK JENKINS, SUPERINTENDENT, 1013 E. CRESWELL LANE, P.O. BOX 310, OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA 70571-0310, WILL RECEIVE SEALED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR "PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, SURFACING AND INSTALLATION @ GRAND COTEAU HEAD START AND OTHER SITES ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS IN ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM" UNTIL 1:30 P.M. ON MAY 25, 2021. RFPs WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ ALOUD ON TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021 AT 2:00 P.M.

RFPs SHALL BE SEALED AND PLAINLY MARKED ON THE OUTSIDE: "RFP FOR PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, SURFACING AND INSTALLATION @ GRAND COTEAU HEAD START AND OTHER SITES ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS IN ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM, 05/25/2021."

IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOUISIANA RS 38:2212, VENDORS MAY SUBMIT THEIR BID ELECTRONICALLY AT www.centralbidding.com. SPECIFICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE BY ELECTRONIC MEANS. VENDORS SUBMITTING BIDS ELECTRONICALLY ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE SAME DOCUMENTS AS VENDORS SUBMITTING THROUGH THE MAIL OR BY HAND DELIVERY.

BIDS WILL BE AWARDED ON QUALITY AND PRICE AND THE BOARD WILL NOT NECESSARILY AWARD ON THE LOWEST PRICE. THE BOARD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY.

MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MAY 13, 2021, at 11:00 A.M. AT THE ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE LOCATED AT 1013 CRESWELL LANE, OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA 70570.

SPECIFICATIONS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM JUNE INHERN, DIRECTOR OF EARLY LEARNING @ THE HEAD START TRAINING CENTER, 8736 HWY 182 NORTH, OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA 70570.

PATRICK JENKINS, SUPERINTENDENT
ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

(PUBLISH: APRIL 22, 29 & MAY 6, 2021) 3T

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE OF BID

THE ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD, PATRICK JENKINS, SUPERINTENDENT, 1013 E. CRESWELL LANE, P O BOX 310, OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA

70571-0310, WILL RECEIVE SEALED BIDS FOR "8 AMANA HEAT/COOL UNITS - HEAD START CENTERS" UNTIL TWO O'CLOCK (2:00) P.M., WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021, AT WHICH TIME THEY WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ ALOUD.

BIDS SHALL BE SEALED AND PLAINLY MARKED ON THE OUTSIDE: "BID FOR 8 AMANA HEAT/COOL UNITS - HEAD START CENTERS, 05/12/2021."

IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOUISIANA RS 38:2212, VENDORS MAY SUBMIT THEIR BID ELECTRONICALLY AT www.centralbidding.com. SPECIFICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE BY ELECTRONIC MEANS. VENDORS SUBMITTING BIDS ELECTRONICALLY ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE SAME DOCUMENTS AS VENDORS SUBMITTING THROUGH THE MAIL OR BY HAND DELIVERY.

ALL ITEMS ARE TO BE DELIVERED F.O.B., ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD, 1013 CRESWELL LANE, OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA 70570, WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE PURCHASE ORDER. ALL PRICES SHALL BE FIXED AND HELD FIRM THROUGH DELIVERY. ONLY COMPLETE SHIPMENTS MUST BE DELIVERED. NO PARTIAL SHIPMENTS ARE TO BE SENT.

ALL PRICES SHALL BE FIXED AND HELD FIRM FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR (MAY 13, 2021 - MAY 13, 2022).

BIDS SHALL BE AWARDED ON QUALITY AND PRICE AND THE BOARD WILL NOT NECESSARILY AWARD ON THE LOWEST PRICE ON ANY ITEM. THE BOARD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY.

SPECIFICATIONS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

PATRICK JENKINS, SUPERINTENDENT
ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

(PUBLISH: APRIL 22 & 29, 2021) 2T

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE OF BID

THE ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD, PATRICK JENKINS, SUPERINTENDENT, 1013 E. CRESWELL LANE, P O BOX 310, OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA 70571-0310, WILL RECEIVE SEALED BIDS FOR "75 AMANA HEAT/COOL UNITS" UNTIL TWO O'CLOCK (2:00) P.M., WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021, AT WHICH TIME THEY WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ ALOUD.

BIDS SHALL BE SEALED AND PLAINLY MARKED ON THE OUTSIDE: "BID FOR 75 AMANA HEAT/COOL UNITS, 05/12/2021."

IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOUISIANA RS 38:2212, VENDORS MAY SUBMIT THEIR BID ELECTRONICALLY AT www.centralbidding.com. SPECIFICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE BY ELECTRONIC MEANS. VENDORS SUBMITTING BIDS ELECTRONICALLY ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE SAME DOCUMENTS AS VENDORS SUBMITTING THROUGH THE MAIL OR BY HAND DELIVERY.

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SPECIFICATIONS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

PATRICK JENKINS, SUPERINTENDENT
ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

(PUBLISH: APRIL 22 & 29, 2021) 2T

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE OF BID

THE ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD, PATRICK JENKINS, SUPERINTENDENT, 1013 E. CRESWELL LANE, P O BOX 310, OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA

70571-0310, WILL RECEIVE SEALED BIDS FOR "GASOLINE AND DIESEL OFF SITE MOTOR FUEL" UNTIL TWO O'CLOCK (2:00) P.M., THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021, AT WHICH TIME THEY WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ ALOUD.

BIDS SHALL BE SEALED AND PLAINLY MARKED ON THE OUTSIDE, "GASOLINE AND DIESEL OFF SITE MOTOR FUEL, 05/20/2021."

IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOUISIANA RS 38:2212, VENDORS MAY SUBMIT THEIR BID ELECTRONICALLY AT www.centralbidding.com. SPECIFICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE BY ELECTRONIC MEANS. VENDORS SUBMITTING BIDS ELECTRONICALLY ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE SAME DOCUMENTS AS VENDORS SUBMITTING THROUGH THE MAIL OR BY HAND DELIVERY.

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SPECIFICATIONS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

PATRICK JENKINS, SUPERINTENDENT
ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

(PUBLISH: APRIL 22 & 29, 2021) 2T

PUBLIC NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

ST. LANDRY PARISH SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL DISTRICT OWNER

Sealed bids for the construction of Cells # 9, 10, 16 & 17 for the St. Landry Parish Sanitary Landfill consisting of approximately 33,000 C.Y. of excavation, 39,200 C.Y. of recompacted clay liner, 340,000 S.F. of HDPE geomembrane, 120,400 S.F. of geotextile, 2 HDPE manholes, and 1,420 L.F. of P.E. leachate collection piping and other associated work will be received by the Chairman and Commission Members, St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District, Meeting Room, Beggs, Louisiana until 5:00 p.m., Thursday, May 27, 2021, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud. Electronic bidding is also available through Central Bidding at www.centralauctionhouse.com

Plans and specifications may be examined, without charge, in the office of the St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District, 417 Solid Waste Road, Washington, LA 70589 in St. Landry Parish or at the offices of Aucoin & Associates, Inc., 433 North C.C. Duson Street, Eunice, Louisiana 70535 or will be forwarded to the prospective bidder upon deposit with the Engineers of \$200.00 for one (1) set of plans and specifications plus postage.

The full deposit for one set of plans and specifications will be refunded to each general contractor who submits a bona-fide bid. For additional sets of documents and for documents issued to subcontractors or material suppliers, the cost of reproduction and mailing of each set will be deducted and a balance of \$50.00 refunded. Said refunds will only be made for a complete set of documents in good condition returned within 10 days following bid opening. Partial sets of documents will not be issued.

Bids must be submitted on Bid Forms furnished for this purpose by the Engineers. Each bidder must deposit with his/her bid, security in the amount, forms, and subject to the conditions provided for in the Information for Bidders. Sureties used for obtaining bonds must appear as acceptable on the U.S. Department of Treasury Circular 570.

Attention of Bidder is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of employment to be observed which reads: NON-DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT; BIDDERS ON THIS WORK WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 11246. THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BIDDERS AND CONTRACTORS UNDER THIS ORDER ARE EXPLAINED IN THE SPECIFICATIONS.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within forty five (45) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED AT BEGGS, LOUISIANA THIS THE 29th DAY OF April, 2021.

/s/ Jody Powell
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

/s/ Pete Oliver
Secretary/Treasurer

(PUBLISH: APRIL 29, MAY 6 & 13, 2021) 3T

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Some woods & some cleared \$80,000 337-831-5892 337-581-5640</p> <p>HELP WANTED</p> <p>CNAS NEEDED: Full-time positions, all shifts.</p> <p>Three housekeepers Needed: Two full-time positions and one PRN position.</p> <p>Now Taking applications for CNA Licensing Class. No Date set at this time.</p> <p>Apply in person at St. Frances Nursing & Rehab in Oberlin.</p>	<p>HELP WANTED</p> <p>EVERYTHING RENTAL CENTER is hiring full time and part time service technicians. Applicants must be hardworking, organized, reliable, willing to learn, and able to work well with others. The responsibilities of this position include maintaining a clean work area, servicing rental equipment, and providing customer service. Computer and phone skills are a plus. A driver's license is a requirement. Locations are in Eunice and Opelousas. Apply in person or send resume' to info@everythingrentalcenter.com</p> <p>EXPERIENCED BUTCHER NEEDED AT Bayou Chicot Grocery. Experienced ONLY need apply. Must have references and must call for interview. (337)461-2885</p> <p>FULL-TIME COUNTER person needed. Auto and truck parts knowledge a plus. Salary DOE. 401-K. See Brandon at Sattler Supply, 211 Bobcat Drive, Eunice.</p> <p>KITCHEN HELP NEEDED AT Acadia St. Landry Guest Home. Call 337-258-6972, before picking up application.</p> <p>MECHANIC/MECHANIC HELPER needed. Individual must have some type of light mechanic experience. Job task consists of changing oil, adjusting and changing brakes, daily vehicle maintenance and troubleshooting. Applicant can apply at Babineaux's concrete Service at 550 S. 12th Street, Eunice or call 337-457-4959.</p> <p>SHOP WORKER NEEDED IN Opelousas. SECRETARY & SHOP WORKER NEEDED in Ville Platte. Apply at Guaranty Glass 1009 West Vine St. Opelousas. 337-948-7700</p>	<p>HELP WANTED</p> <p>PORTABLE TOILET AND dumpster company needs driver. Must have at least a chauffeur's license, pass a drug screen, have a clean driving record/work history, and must have a TWIC card or quality to get one. Apply in person at 578 Highway 13 North, Eunice.</p> <p>ST.FRANCES NURSING & REHAB is currently hiring a LPN, 7a-7p, full-time. Competitive wages, every other week-end off, paid holidays. Apply in person.</p> <p>SMITH'S TRUE Value Hardware is seeking a part-time cashier. Prior experience is a plus, but not necessary. Send resume' to info@everythinrentalcenter.com or apply in person.</p>	<p>STATEWIDE</p> <p>AT&T INTERNET. Starting at \$40/month w/12-month agmt. Includes 1 TB of data per month. Get More For Your High-Speed Internet Thing. Ask us how to bundle and SAVE! Geo & svc restrictions apply. Call us today 1-866-282-4680.</p> <p>AT&T TV - The Best of Live & On-Demand On All Your Favorite Screens. CHOICE Package, \$64.99 per month plus taxes for 12 months. Premium Channels at No Charge for One Year! Anytime, anywhere. Some restrictions apply. With 24-month agreement TV price higher in 2nd year. Regional Sports Fee up to \$8.49 per month is extra & applies. Call IVS 1-833-317-1353</p> <p>ATTENTION: OXYGEN USERS! Gain freedom with a Portable Oxygen Concentrator! No more heavy tanks and refills! Guaranteed Lowest Prices! Call Oxygen Concentrator Store: 1-855-382-4168</p> <p>ATTENTION: OXYGEN USERS! The NEW Inogen One G5. 1-6 flow settings. Designed for 24-hour oxygen use. Compact and Lightweight. Get a FREE info kit today. 1-855-874-9438</p> <p>AUTO INSURANCE STARTING AT \$49 PER MONTH! Call 1-844-430-4651 for your free rate comparison to see how much you can save!</p> <p>ATTENTION: OXYGEN USERS! Gain freedom with a Portable Oxygen Concentrator! No more heavy tanks and refills! Guaranteed Lowest Prices! Call Oxygen Concentrator Store: 1-855-382-4168</p> <p>ATTENTION: OXYGEN USERS! The NEW Inogen One G5. 1-6 flow settings. Designed for 24-hour oxygen use. Compact and Lightweight. 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Call 1-855-268-0108 for details. www.dental50plus.com/morning 6118-0219</p> <p>DIRECTV - EVERY LIVE \$49.99 per month. Select All-Included Package. 155 Channels. 1000s of Shows/Movies On Demand. FREE Genie HD DVR Upgrade. Premium movie channels, FREE for 3 mos! Call 1-866-734-0452</p>	<p>STATEWIDE</p> <p>DIRECTV - EVERY LIVE football game, every Sunday - anywhere - on your favorite device. Restrictions apply. Call IVS - 1-866-734-0452</p> <p>DIRECTV NOW. NO Satellite Needed. 65 Channels. Stream Breaking News, Live Events, Sports & On Demand Titles. No Annual Contract. NO Commitment. CALL 1-844-246-2428</p> <p>DISH NETWORK \$59.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99 per month. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100 Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-855-654-8207</p> <p>DONATE YOUR CAR TO UNITED BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION! Your donation helps education, prevention & support programs. FAST FREE PICKUP - 24 HR RESPONSE - TAX DEDUCTION 1-888-405-0326</p>	<p>STATEWIDE</p> <p>DONATE YOUR CAR TRUCK OR BOAT TO HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND. FREE 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. Call 1-844-605-9298</p> <p>DONATE YOUR CAR, truck or van. Help veterans find jobs or start a business. Call Patriotic Hearts Foundation. Fast, FREE pickup. Max tax-deduction. Operators are standing by! Call 1-866-934-5706</p> <p>EARTHLINK HIGH SPEED internet. As Low As \$14.95 per month (for the first 3 months) Reliable High Speed Fiber Optic Technology. Stream Videos, Music and More! Call Earthlink Today! 1-866-794-6858</p> <p>ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING forever with Leaf-Filter, the most advanced debris blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. Call 1-866-846-0785</p> <p>FLEXIBLE HEALTHCARE CAREER Training, Medical Billing and Coding Program. 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21 ACRES OF land on Chicot Park Rd. Some woods & some cleared \$80,000 337-831-5892 337-581-5640

HELP WANTED

CNAS NEEDED: Full-time positions, all shifts.

Three housekeepers Needed: Two full-time positions and one PRN position.

Now Taking applications for CNA Licensing Class. No Date set at this time.

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Relief

(Continued from Page 1) director of operations. Ortego said the devices cost about \$600 each and last 10 to 15 years. About 1,600 window units are needed with an installation time of about 30 minutes each, he said. The district also has central air conditioning systems. Blanchard said the district is going to request funding for 10 new school buses costing a total of \$1,080,000. The district also would request \$1 million to provide hot water in student and adult restrooms. The expenses escalated when Lyn Kenley of

Volkert, a planning, engineering and construction service company that helped the district with a proposal in 2018 for a \$99 million bond issue for new schools and repairs. Voters defeated the 2018 proposal. Kenley said allowable expenses under the COVID relief funding includes repairing leaky roofs, changing floors and windows, building to relieve overcrowding. Blanchard said the plan intends to avoid spending on campuses that might be closed. Kenley said, "You only have \$30 million and you have 37 schools and we are trying to figure out an equitable way to dis-

tribute this money so that everybody feels like they aren't being left, but we are not spending money where we don't need to spend it." Jenkins pointed out that even if schools are to close, students and staff must be provided a safe environment. Some of the district's schools are short on classrooms or they have an abundance of T-buildings, he said. A pod of classrooms with a small office and restrooms can be added to some campuses. Campuses needing classrooms were identified as Palmetto, Lawtell, Krotz Springs, Port Barre, Northeast, Arnaudville

and Grolee elementary schools. The construction would be basic with a metal frame, metal roof and on a slab, but Kenley said concrete blocks may be a less expensive method. "You don't know the future of a lot of these schools. We don't want to overbuild there if we don't have to," he said. Roof replacements are recommended for Opelousas Middle and the Washington Career Center. The average cost per campus is \$2 million, he said. Kenley said the plan is for about 15 campuses to get restroom additions at about \$50,000 to \$60,000 each.

Albert Hayes Jr., a Eunice Board member, said the planning should allow each Board member district to have \$1 million in projects. "If you want the support of the city of Eunice, you are going to have show them something," he said. Hayes pointed out the district has about \$60 million to be spent by 2024. Jenkins said whatever the district requests has to be approved on the state level. Hazel Sias, Board president, said, "I think we need to go back to the drawing board..." in reference to spending money at campuses once proposed for closing.

Kenley said if the district looks at reorganization, "you may end up putting something at a site that in the future you may close. Whatever put there needs to be as economic as possible." He added, "Should the kids have to wait to have a decent restroom until we decide what to do?" Mary Ellen Donatto, another Eunice Board member, said, "He is describing a major problem because we are running too many at 25% capacity, 30% capacity and we are going to start putting those little filters or whatever he described (at) \$600 a pop all over a school that you don't even use most of the school."

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Census

(Continued from Page 1) most populous state while Wyoming remains the least populous. According to the data, Utah grew by the greatest percentage at 18.4% while West Virginia saw the biggest decrease at a 3.2% decline in population. The Census Bureau delivered the data to Presi-

dent Joe Biden Monday afternoon. The president will deliver its findings to Congress. The U.S. Census Bureau updates population estimates every 10 years. That data is used to apportion the 435 members of the House of Representatives and the Electoral College votes to states in accordance with the size of their populations. "The apportionment population consists of the

resident population of the 50 states, plus the overseas military and federal civilian employees and their dependents living with them who could be allocated to a home state," the Census Bureau said in a statement. States can issue legal challenges against the Biden administration on how the seats are distributed. Even the least populated states get at least

one representative. Those states include Alaska, Delaware, Vermont, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. Last time around, the U.S. Census transferred seats from the Northeast and Midwest to the South and West. Eight states gained seats and 10 lost. Texas gained the most, adding four seats after the 2010 census. Florida gained two while Ari-

zona, Georgia, Nevada, South Carolina, Utah and Washington gained one. New York and Ohio lost two seats while Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey and Pennsylvania all lost one seat due to the 2010 Census. At that time, the U.S. population came in at 308,745,538 million people, which was nearly a 10% increase from the

2000 Census. Statistics on age, sex, race and other information will be released at a later date. The census count began last year, but results have been delayed until now. "Due to circumstances out of our control, including COVID-19 and numerous severe weather events, we delayed our 2020 Census data collection efforts," the bureau said.

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St. Edmund Elementary first graders Charles Patrick Cunningham and Harleigh Credeur are looking forward to this weekend for the St. Edmund Spring Fair. Their teacher is Michelle Newsom. The Puppy Roll is one of the many fair rides on the grounds behind the elementary school. (Photos by Myra Miller)

St. Edmund Spring Fair returns starting Friday

St. Edmund School celebrates 55 years of its annual Spring Fair. Last year, with COVID-19 restrictions the fair was not held.

The fun weekend begins Friday and concludes Sunday at 6 p.m. The fair rides are open to the public from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. Sat-

urday and 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Sunday.

The family-fun event features fair rides, games, bingo, live auction, and plenty of different foods.

Some food items to purchase will include burgers, boiled crawfish, crawfish etouffee, fried fish, snow cones and much more.

Bingo will be offered throughout the weekend inside the cafeteria and a Big Bingo will be held at 8 p.m. Saturday and at 5 p.m. Sunday.

There will be a live auction at 2 p.m. on Sunday. There will be live music from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.



Repairs to a classroom building at Eunice Elementary are complete. (Photo by Myra Miller)

It's done! Eunice Elementary classroom building is back in service

A classroom building at Eunice Elementary gutted by fire 2018 returned to service Wednesday for student testing.

Claudia Blanchard, director of operations for the St Landry Parish School Board, said, "I'm so excited to tell you that as of last Friday, April 16, we received substantial completion on the Eunice

Elementary building."

The news about the completion of repairs was made at Monday's meeting of the Buildings, Lands and Sites Committee meeting.

"We will not fully move back into the building the end of the semester," she said.

The project has been delayed by hurricanes, de-

sign issues, flooding of the adjacent administration building and COVID-19.

Before the August 2018 fire that gutted the classroom building, the Board had approved about \$1 million in roofing work. That work was finally completed this year at the Eunice Elementary and Eunice Junior High School campuses.

DHS announces extension of REAL ID full enforcement deadline

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas announced the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is extending the REAL ID full enforcement date by 19 months, from Oct. 1 to May 3, 2023, due to circumstances resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic has significantly impacted states' ability to issue REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and identification cards, with many driver's licensing agencies still operating at limited capacity. DHS will publish an interim final rule in the coming days to effectuate this enforcement date change.

"Protecting the health, safety, and security of our communities is our top priority," said Mayorkas. "As our country continues to recover from the

COVID-19 pandemic, extending the REAL ID full enforcement deadline will give states needed time to reopen their driver's licensing operations and ensure their residents can obtain a REAL ID-compliant license or identification card."

Beginning May 3, 2023, every air traveler 18 years of age and older will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or identification card, state-issued enhanced driver's license, or another TSA-acceptable form of identification at airport security checkpoints for domestic air travel.

All 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and four of five U.S. territories covered by the REAL ID Act and related regulations are now compliant with REAL ID security standards and are issuing REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and iden-

tification cards. However, many state licensing agencies have extended the deadline for renewing expiring licenses due to a widespread shift to appointment-only scheduling protocols during the pandemic that has significantly limited states' capacity to issue REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and identification cards. As a result, only 43% of all state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards are currently REAL ID-compliant. DHS and various states also need time to implement requirements mandated by the REAL ID Modernization Act, including changes that will streamline processing by allowing the electronic submission of certain documents.

For more information on REAL ID, visit www.dhs.gov/real-id.



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